MILF leader denies training Malaysian militants

STORY ON PAGE A3

Tito gets personal on Bobby's 'meddling'

By Juliet L. Javellana

"YOU know, Bobby, when your old man was head (of foreign affairs), he lamented that Kokoy Romualdez was running the show."

An administration official said Vice President Teofisto "Tito" Guingona Jr. made this statement to former Foreign

TITO/ A20

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CYNTHIA Terrame (top photo) and other US Army soldiers enjoy a walk inside the military's Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City. DENNIS SABANGAN

Palace tells US foes: Let SC settle issue

Debate is useless, Tiglao says

By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil

MALACAÑANG challenged groups opposing the deployment of US soldiers in Mindanao to take their case to the Supreme Court as it insisted that the US-assisted military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf was not only constitutional but also popular.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the only way to end the debate over the constitutionality of the joint "training exercises" between Filipino and American soldiers was to take the case to the high court.

"We can debate the entire day, but if you don't want to believe it is constitutional, I can't do anything about that," Tiglao said on Sunday over radio station dzMM.

Without a contrary Supreme Court ruling, "we have to accept that this is constitutional," he added.

Groups opposing the joint military exercises, dubbed "Balikatan 02-1," are taking Tiglao's challenge. *(See related story.)*

President Macapagal-Arroyo has insisted that the presence of American troops in Mindanao is constitutional.

"My legal advisers have already said that that is legal and within

PALACE/ A20

Yankees, Go Home!
Stop Balikatan!
[illegible] MLSA!
YANKEES GO HOME!
YANKEES GO HOME!
YANKEES GO HOME!

KEEPING abreast of their struggle against American military presence in the country, women members of the militant Sanlakas group warn against the "rape of Philippine sovereignty" as they oppose the deployment of US soldiers in Mindanao. JOAN BONDOC

Militants accept Malacañang challenge

By Agnes E. Donato and Gerald G. Lacuarta

ACCEPTING Malacañang's challenge, a new coalition of militant groups called PeaceCamp yesterday said it would question before the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the deployment of US military troops in Mindanao.

As the coalition prepared for a court battle, the communist-led National Democratic Front said the deployment of US troops in Mindanao had imperiled the resumption of peace negotiations with the government.

Jose Ma. Sison, NDF chief political consultant, said the principle of national sovereignty was one of the mutually acceptable principles guiding the negotiations as set forth in The Hague Joint Declaration of the government and NDF panels.

"Serious violations of the principle by the government prejudice the negotiations," Sison said in a statement.

He said the Philippine government also violated its own Consti-

MILITANTS/ A20

GMA meets Blair today; kidnappings in RP, UK assistance on top of agenda

By Tony S. Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

LONDON (via PLDT)—Concern over kidnappings and other organized crime in the Philippines, among other issues, brings together Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo and British Prime Minister Tony Blair today.

While there has been no official announcement of the agenda of the two leaders' meeting at 10 Downing St., some Palace officials said kidnapping and criminality in the Philippines were among the most important items on the table.

In Manila, Ms Macapagal called for closer trade ties with Europe on Sunday as she prepared to make her first visit there since she came to power a year ago.

In her departure speech, the President said she would continue her mission to promote the country as the world recovers from the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

"That is why today I leave again to seek the confidence and support of the world for our country as the global scenario rapidly changes from all-out war to all-out consolidation," she said before boarding a commercial flight to London at 8:30 p.m. last night.

"The theater of conflict has shifted elsewhere," she added.

"And now we are in the map again, not just because of our resilient economy, but because we have support for our fight against

GMA/ A6

The problem with Gloria is she's not tough enough

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo completed last week her first year in office with a stronger constituency abroad than at home.

Time magazine put her as cover story for its Jan. 28 issue, titled "Power and Gloria," calling attention to the fact that she "barely" survived her first year and she faces gale force storms ahead.

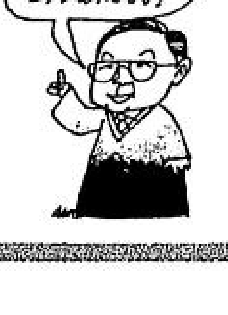
The publication of the cover story has lifted the morale of the President and her supporters on the basis of the perception that the administration is getting a more balanced and fair assessment of its problems and accomplishments from the international press than from its domestic counterpart.

Ms Macapagal's foreign policy, accented by her initiative to put the Philippines behind the US-led war on terrorism, has also received favorable reviews from the American press and US

THE PROBLEM/ A20

Be like Tolkien's Frodo, Davide urges lawyers

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau



KAILANGAN NATIN NG MGA FRODO, 'DI MGA SARUMAN!

ILOILO CITY—The man who stood tall during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada has apparently taken a liking to the diminutive hero of the critically acclaimed film "Lord of the Rings."

In his call to members of the legal profession to "vanquish" injustice, Chief

BE LIKE/ A20

Tax fraud agency losing 'scam' witnesses

By John Nery, Clarissa S. Batino and Christine Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT'S most important witness in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam yesterday said he was no longer sure if he could still work with the Special Presidential Task Force investigating the cases.

"Most of the witnesses have left," said Felix Chingkoe, estranged brother of Faustino, the Chinese-Filipino businessman who allegedly duped the government of some P2.5 billion in fake tax credit certificates.

The witness spoke to the INQUIRER even as the task force chair told business reporters he would seek to formalize an agreement on the cases' prosecution with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto tomorrow.

In Congress, ranking senators said the Senate could reopen its own investigation of the scam, while a congressman said his party might file another impeachment case against Desierto—this time, for whitewashing the tax credit cases—as early as today.

Felix Chingkoe said he and the witnesses whom he had convinced to testify provided investigators with the "first direct link" to his brother and his brother's wife Gloria in the tax fraud cases.

He slammed the task force for the way it has handled its witnesses. "I (now) doubt its assurances of security and immunity," he said, speaking in particular on the fate of the witnesses from different Chingkoe companies that he said he convinced to testify.

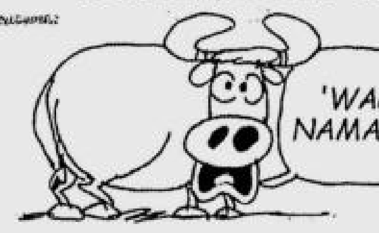
"Given the situation now, with witnesses leaving, what else can I do? Where shall I go from here?" he asked in a mix of English and Filipino in a phone interview.

"I do not know if I can (still) trust them (the task force)," he added.

He maintained that his brother had fled to Canada, and blamed

TAX/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE



Indon cleric backs jihad vs RP

But controversial preacher denies urging holy war on Singapore, Malaysia

SINGAPORE—An Indonesian Muslim cleric being investigated for alleged involvement in a Southeast Asian terrorist network has denied calling for a holy war in Singapore and Malaysia.

But Ustad Abu Bakar Ba'asyir told Singapore's Sunday Times that the largely Roman Catholic Philippines deserved to be the target of a jihad, and admitted having met some militants detained in Singapore and Malaysia over the past decade as a preacher.

Dozens of suspects linked by authorities to the al-Qaida international network led by fugitive militant Osama bin laden have been rounded up in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines in the wake of the September attacks in the United States.

Ba'asyir denied while under Indonesian police questioning last week that he was associated with al-Qaida but hailed Bin Laden as "a true Muslim fighter."

"I advocate jihad because it is important in the Koran," the 64-year-old Ba'asyir was quoted as saying in the interview with the Singapore newspaper.

"But I make it clear to my students that it should only be done in places where Muslims are being victimized, like in Afghanistan, Bosnia and southern Philippines.

"It makes no sense for me to call for a jihad in Singapore and Malaysia. There is no evidence that these countries are ill-treating Muslims," the preacher reportedly added.

He said militants detained by Singapore for allegedly plotting attacks on American and other targets may have been engaged in "a trial practice before going off to Afghanistan" or "might have been manipulated by a third party." He did not elaborate.

Ba'asyir accused Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of having political motives in detaining alleged militants.

"A lot of the Muslim activists that have been jailed by Mahathir have done nothing wrong. He manipulated the situation to create a very negative view of them," he added.

Both Singapore and Malaysia accuse Ba'asyir of terror links. Singapore tagged him as a leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network which authorities in the city-state have described as having a "clear link" to al-Qaida.

Malaysian police have said Ba'asyir was a "directing figure" of a militant group there which is closely linked to Jemaah. They say 23 group members, including four Indonesians and three Singaporeans, have been held since December.

Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-populated country, has previously played down fears it may be harboring al-Qaida-linked militants.

But the recent arrest in the Philippines of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a young Indonesian accused of being the explosives expert for Jemaah, has apparently prompted a more active stance.

Al-Ghozi once studied at an Islamic boarding school run by Ba'asyir, who heads the Indonesian Mujahedin Council, which campaigns for "sharia" Islamic law in Indonesia.

AFP

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MILF denies training KL militants

Malaysian police: 9 detainees had military training in Mindanao

KUALA LUMPUR—A Philippine Muslim separatist group yesterday denied having links with Malaysian militants alleged to have received training at their military camp in Mindanao.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) spokesperson, Eid Kabalu, said the group did not allow foreigners into its training camps.

Malaysian police said Thursday they had detained 23 members of the Malaysian Militant Group (KMM), including four Indonesians and three Singaporeans, which they claimed had links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida and other terror networks.

Inspector-General of Police, Norian Mai, told a news conference that 19 of the 23 detainees had received military training outside the country—10 in Afghanistan and nine in Mindanao.

"We need to know the time they received the training, so that we can check," Kabalu was quoted by the official Bernama news agency as saying.

He said there was a possibility that the nine KMM members could have disguised themselves as Bangsamoro people to enter the MILF camps.

"As far as I know, the (training) academy only accepts Bangsamoro," he told Bernama in a phone interview from Cotabato City.

The 12,500-strong MILF is fighting for the creation of an Islamic state in the south of the Philippines, which is largely Roman Catholic.

When asked of the MILF's involvement in a regional radical Muslim network, Kabalu said the MILF was transparent in its operations and had no links with any other groups in the region. *AFP*

American detained at Naia for gun smuggling

AN AMERICAN has been arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after gun parts were found on his luggage, police said yesterday.

William Henry Weaver, 55, was arrested shortly before he was to board a commercial flight for Los Angeles on Friday, Senior Police Officer Mario Caguioa said in a report.

Parts of a dismantled .38-caliber revolver were found on two of his checked-in luggage, Caguioa added. *AFP*

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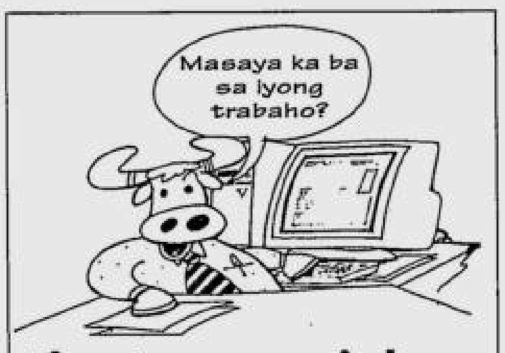
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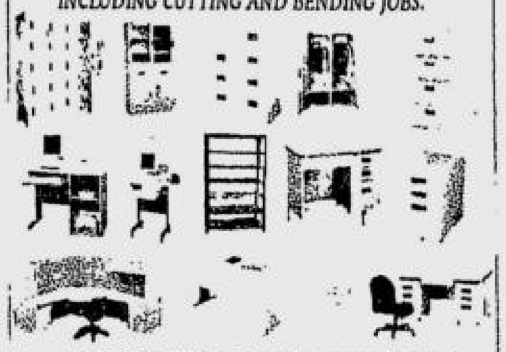

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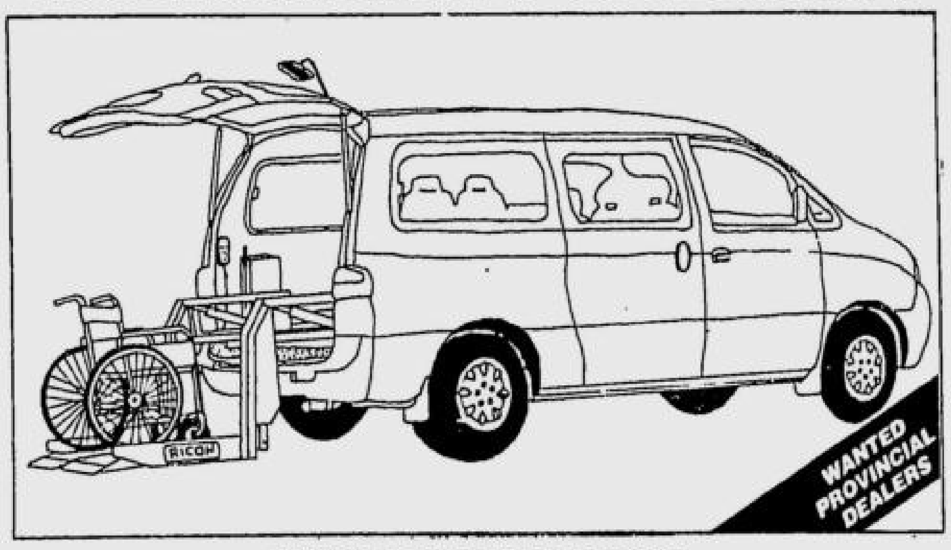

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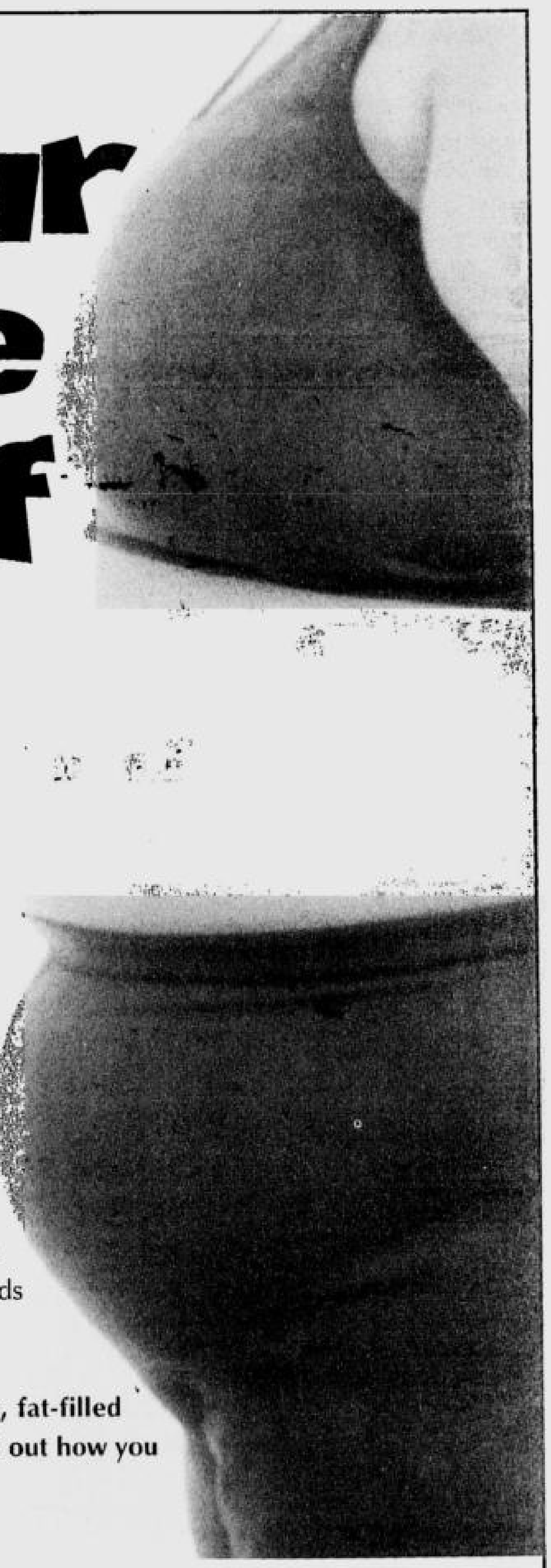

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Rosebud mad at Lina for praising cop

By Martin P. Marfil

MARY "Rosebud" Ong, the civilian narcotics agent who implicated Sen. Panfilo Lacson in drug-trafficking activities, now wants the head of Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Ong said Lina should be sacked for publicly commending a police official who had allegedly participated in the illegal arrest and detention of several Chinese nationals, some of whom were said to have been killed by police.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo should really consider removing him (Lina). It's not the first time he has insulted us," Ong said in an impromptu press conference yesterday.

Lina had commended Senior Insp. Cesar Aquino in the program "Dial 117" which is aired over state television and sponsored by the interior department.

In last Friday's edition of the program, Lina was said to have heaped praises on Aquino for having participated in a drug bust raid in Lipa City last year that netted 1,000 kg of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride.

Ong said Aquino's participation in the raid should not come as a surprise as he was the one being accused of protecting drug syndicates.

"Of course, they're good at raiding (drug safe houses) because they are the same people protecting it," she said.

Lina's commendation of Aquino was an outrage, she said.

"How can he commend the policeman (that) I charged with protecting the drug trade, including the smuggling of drugs through Sariaya? It is adding insult to injury," Ong said.

She said she did not believe that Lina had not known that Aquino was under investigation.

"He has shown his incapability of being chief of the Department of Interior and Local Government," she said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Lina for comment.

Aquino has two pending cases before the Ombudsman's office.

In one, he is accused of participating in the illegal arrest of four Chinese nationals—Zeng Jia Xian, Hong Zhen Qiao, Zeng Kang Fang and James Ong—on March 26, 1999 near Damar Village in Quezon City.

The other is a graft case.

Ong was one of the star witnesses in the Senate investigation last year into Lacson's alleged money-laundering, drug-smuggling, kidnap-for-ransom and other illegal activities.

The allegations against Lacson are still in the fact-finding stage.

Lawyer who prepared impeachment complaint vs Erap buried Wednesday

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The lawyer of the opposition in the House of Representatives who filed the historic impeachment complaint against former President Joseph Estrada will be buried in his native Iloilo on Wednesday.

Ramon A. Gonzales' remains were brought to this city on Jan. 23, six days after he succumbed to lung cancer at his home in New Manila, Quezon City. He was 76.

Gov. Neil Tupas led local officials who met the body at the airport and escorted it to Gonzales' home in Pototan town, some 15 kilometers northeast of this city, where it lies in state.

Gonzales is survived by his wife, Lilia Yusay-Gonzales, a son and eight daughters and 19 grandchildren.

Neurological services are set at 7 a.m. on Jan. 30 at the St. Joseph Parish Church in Pototan.

Interment will be at the Forest Lake Memorial Park in Iloilo City's Mandurriao District before noon.

Gonzales was first diagnosed with lung cancer three years ago.

Ms Gonzales said he was not a smoker but a victim of "passive smoking," inhaling the smoke of friends and fellow lawyers through the years.

His illness did not dampen his spirit or his desire to serve the public, however, she said.

He was already sick when he prepared and filed the impeachment complaint on Oct. 18, 2000 against then President Estrada.

The complaint, which ran to 100 pages, accused Estrada of bribery, graft and corruption, betrayal of the public trust and violation of the Constitution.

Then Representatives Heherson T. Alvarez of Isabela and Ernesto F. Herrera of Bohol endorsed the complaint to the House. It was elevated to the Senate, which began hearing the historic impeachment trial that culminated in People Power II and the ouster of Estrada.

The Estrada impeachment trial capped a 46-year legal career that saw Gonzales questioning the legality of the 1973 Constitution and the validity of Proclamation 1081 declaring martial law.

In 1967, Gonzales submitted a memorandum on behalf of then Sen. Benigno Aquino, whose age was being questioned before the Commission on Elections.

Aquino was a few days shy of the minimum age requirement of 35 for senators, but the Comelec still rendered a judgement in his favor.

Ms Gonzales recalled the young Aquino going to her husband's office in Ermita, Manila to express his appreciation.

"Mon, if I am a senator now, you know who made me one," Ms Gonzales quoted Aquino as telling him.

Gonzales was a 1955 law graduate of the University of San Agustin here.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo offered him a position in government but my husband declined because he chose to be a watchdog who ran after wrongdoers," Ms Gonzales said.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Effect of foreign judgment—A foreign judgment is presumed to be valid and binding in the country from which it comes, until a contrary showing, on the basis of a presumption of regularity of proceedings and the giving of due notice in the foreign forum. Under Section 50 (b), Rule 39 of the Revised Rules of Court (now Sec. 48, Rule 39 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure), which was the governing law at the time the instant case was decided by the trial court and respondent appellate court, a judgment, against the person, of a tribunal of a foreign country having jurisdiction to pronounce the same is presumptive evidence of a right as between the parties and their successors in interest by a subsequent title. The judgment may, however, be assailed by evidence of want of jurisdiction, want of notice to the party, collusion, fraud, or clear mistake of law or fact. In addition, under Section 3 (n), Rule 131 of the Revised Rules of Court, a court, whether in the Philippines or elsewhere, enjoys the presumption that it was acting in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction. Hence, once the authenticity of the foreign judgment is proved, the party attacking a foreign judgment, is tasked with the burden of overcoming the presumptive validity. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon Jr., Second Division, Asiavest Merchant Bankers (M) Berhad v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 110263, July 20, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 28, 2002
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 S 5:1-7, 10
Gospel: Mk 3:22-30

The teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is in the power of Beelzebul: the chief of the demons helps him to drive out demons."

Jesus called them to him and began teaching them by means of stories or parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a nation is divided by civil war, that nation cannot stand. If a family divides itself into groups, that family will not survive. In the same way, if Satan has risen against himself and is divided, he will not stand; he is finished. No one can break into the house of the Strong one in order to plunder his goods, unless he first ties up the Strong one. Then indeed, he can plunder his house.

Truly, I say to you, every sin will be forgiven humankind, even insults to God, however numerous. But whoever slanders the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven: he carries the guilt of his sin forever."

This was their sin when they said, "He has an evil spirit in him."

Commentary

Masters of the Law saw the good works performed by Jesus, but denied that God was behind them. They would prefer to attribute the new way of teaching and miracles of Jesus to some other powers, even to Satan, the common enemy, rather thán to surrender to the evidence that Jesus and God were one. The worst blindness is that of these who do not want to see. The worst sin is to deny that the Spirit of God is at work in the world.

How difficult is to accept that others, who are not of our social or religious group, can do better than us! When we fail to recognize the good existing in the world, or the good deeds performed by those who are not of our company, we are denying God.

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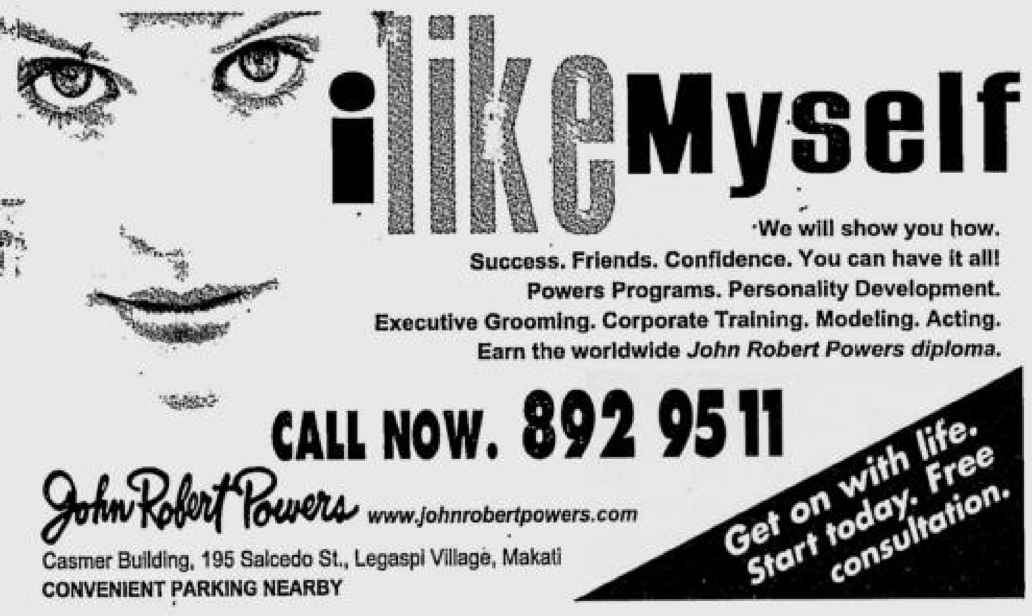
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4 of 10 Filipinos live on less than ₱38 a day–NSCB

FOUR of every 10 Filipinos are poor, living on less than P38 a day, government figures show.

Poverty incidence stood at 39.4 percent of the population in calendar 2000, up by 2.6 percentage points over the 1997 figure, the National Statistics Coordination Board's family income and expenditures survey showed.

Translated into households, 33.7 percent of all families lived below the poverty threshold, or up by 1.9 percentage points from 1997, it added.

The board defines the poverty threshold as the annual per capita amount "required to satisfy food and non-food basic needs." It was P13,823 in 2000, up 22 percent over the 1997 threshold, it said.

"Thus, a family of six members should have a monthly income of P6,911 to meet their food and non-food basic needs."

The Philippines entered a period of low growth after the 1997 Asian crisis, made worse by a political upheaval that later led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada amid a corruption scandal last year.

Economic output is estimated to have grown by 3.3 percent last year, compared to an annual birth rate of 2.36 percent over the past five years.

The government said poverty incidence in urban areas rose by two percentage points to 19.9 percent, or one family in five in 2000.

Rural areas were worse off, with 46.9 percent of all families considered poor—a 2.5-point rise from the 1997 measure.

Just 8.7 percent of families in Manila and suburbs were considered poor, though the figure is 2.3 points above the 1997 number.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the number of families with per capita incomes that fell below the food threshold rose by 7.8 points to 35.5 percent in 2000, it said. **AFP**

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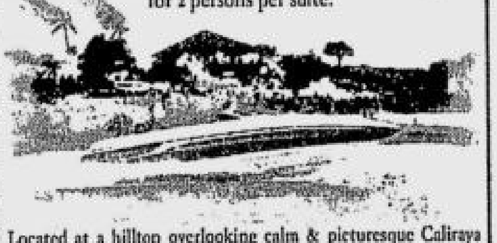

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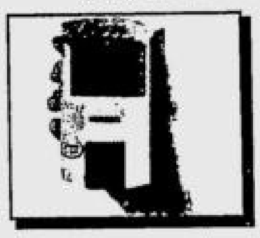

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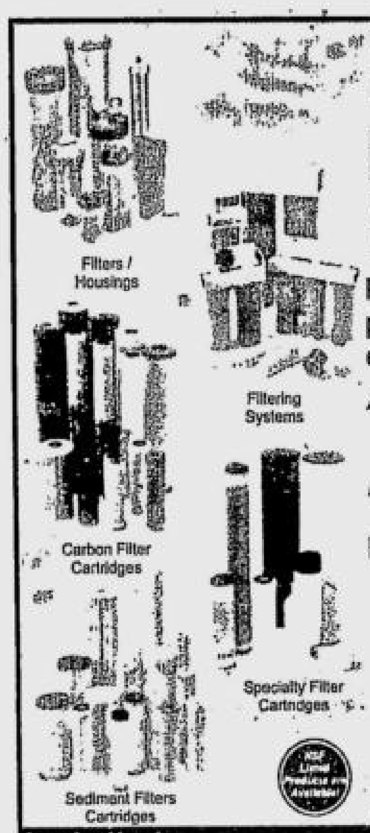

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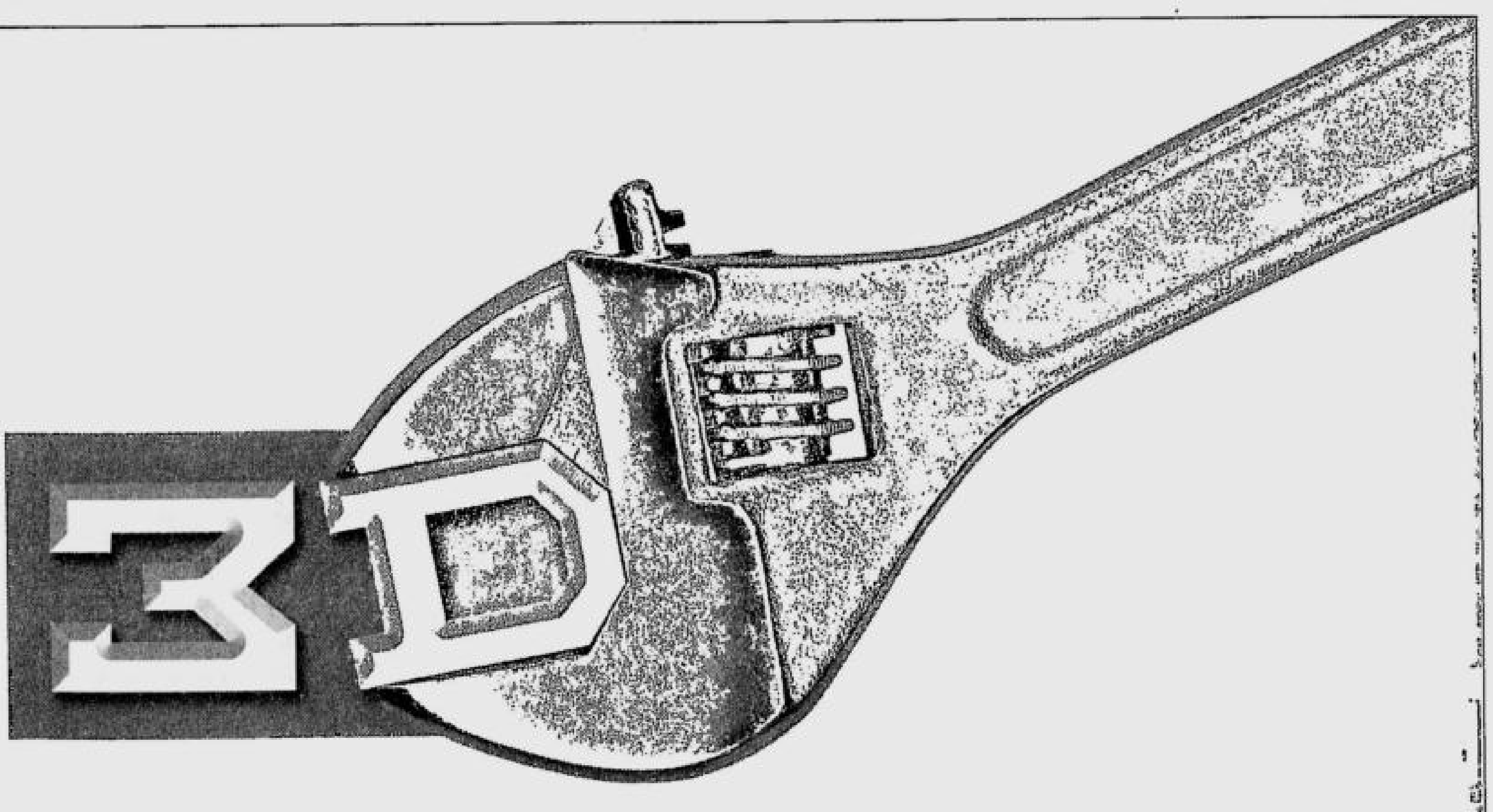

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Tax fraud agency losing 'scam' witnesses

From page A1

the task force and the Ombudsman for allowing Faustino to flee. Faustino and Gloria own a house in Richmond, Vancouver, British Columbia, he said.

Now that the plunder cases against the Chingkoes have been "derailed," he said, he doubted whether the task force could still file the second separate plunder case by next month, as its officials had promised.

"How can they say now that they will still file middle of February?" he asked.

He bewailed the confusion that had clouded the working relationship of the task force and the Ombudsman, which he said caused witnesses to become uncooperative.

"Is it worth sacrificing our life for?" he asked.

Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison, the task force chair, said yesterday that he would meet Desierto tomorrow to clarify reports that the latter had indeed filed a consolidated plunder case against the Chingkoe group of companies.

Gison said the task force had an informal agreement with the Ombudsman that the strategy was to file a separate case for each of the 12 companies and not to consolidate them into one.

"I would try to work for a memorandum of agreement so we could formalize this position with the Ombudsman," said Gison. He said he would also ask Desierto to clarify the circumstances behind the plunder case.

"I am not aware that there was a consolidation of the cases. The task force believes that what we should do is choose the cases where we have stronger evidence to prosecute the respondents and not to do the shotgun approach," he said.

Gison said the task force was preparing to file its second plunder case against the Chingkoe group before the Ombudsman next month.

A task force member disclosed the target: Philstar Corp., another textile firm of the Chingkoes, which allegedly acquired P339 million worth of fraudulent TCCs.

"We have testimonies to prove that Philstar was not selling any product, much (less) engaged in exports. It should not have been entitled to TCCs," said a task force official.

Last Dec. 13, the task force filed its first plunder case in the office of the Ombudsman against Diamond Knitting Corp., another Chingkoe firm.

New impeachment

Led by the militant Bagong Alyansâng Makabayan (Bayan), concerned citizens and some congressmen may file a new impeachment suit against Desierto in the House of Representatives.

This is a mere two days before the House in plenary session votes on the first impeachment complaint, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said.

If at least one-third of all congressmen approve the House justice committee's decision finding the first complaint to be insufficient in substance, the Constitution's one-year ban against the filing of a second impeachment complaint against the same government official will take effect.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER that it was "theoretically" possible for another impeachment complaint to be filed against Desierto, pending final resolution of the first complaint.

"Theoretically, an impeachment complaint can be filed between now and the time of the approval of the first impeachment complaint against him by the House," he said.

Lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr., who filed the first case, said he was also one of those filing the second complaint, together with Bayan Muna's Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran, plus leaders of various people's organizations.

"Ombudsman Desierto is very much mistaken if he thinks that the fight to discredit him and have him punished for his monumental crimes of corruption is over," Ocampo said.

"Ombudsman Desierto only keeps on issuing *non sequitur* answers and pretends to be unfazed by the gravity of the accusations against him. If he's so confident, then he shouldn't be afraid to face these accusations in a formal congressional inquiry."

Francisco told the INQUIRER how the second impeachment complaint against Desierto was shaping up.

In sum, the complaint charges Desierto with betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution for his alleged bungling of the government's case against not only the Chingkoe companies "but (also) in 145 other cases pending in the Sandiganbayan, involving billions of pesos in lost government revenues."

Francisco said this amount was based on records of the cases involving the tax credit scam that were filed by Desierto's office in the Sandiganbayan in 2000 and 2001.

"The cases show that Desierto was responsible for the long history of undue and unexplained delay in the reinvestigation of the Ombudsman's office of the tax credit scam cases," Francisco said.

He said Desierto, for instance, caused the dismissal of 62 tax credit scam cases against 50 persons, including top executives of Petron Corp., by unduly delaying the resolution of the reinvestigation of the cases for one year and seven months.

The Sandiganbayan dismissed the 62 cases on Aug. 20, 2001, "considering the failure of the prosecutor to submit the result of the reinvestigation of these cases."

He said the records also showed that the Chingkoe plunder case was not the first time Desierto excluded oil firm executives from the charges.

Desierto also dropped charges against Shell general manager Pacifico Cruz in 23 tax credit scam cases filed by his office on April 5, 2001, this time involving textile and manufacturing firms, he said.

Desierto also withdrew charges against Cruz and others involved in nine tax credit scam cases in July 2000.

Francisco said the records showed that "Desierto did not file a case for plunder against the perpetrators of the tax credit scam in any of the cases pending before the Sandiganbayan."

"He even downgraded 41 cases from plunder to graft despite his having approved the recommendation of his own graft investigators to file a case for plunder," the draft complaint read in part.

"This only shows the office of the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman himself are rotten and that the House of Representatives has a duty to subject him to impeachment proceedings not only to clean the office but also give him the chance to clear his name and office," Francisco added.

Senate investigation

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said a Senate investigation of the tax credit fraud conducted during the 11th Congress by the Senate ways and means committee, then chaired by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, might be reopened.

He noted that the committee had strongly recommended the prosecution of erring officials and other parties who benefited from the scam.

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople said that, with the word war raging between Desierto and Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, the Senate could provide an alternative venue for investigating the congressman's allegations against Desierto.

"It would be unfair for Desierto to resign on the basis of the privileged speech (of Moreno). But if there is no resolution between Desierto and the House, the Senate will intervene," Ople said.

Ople likewise pointed out that a reopening of the Senate investigation would only be proper because "it is the work of the ways and means committee which was used as basis for filing the case."

In a privileged speech last week, Moreno accused Desierto of deliberately filing a "weak" plunder case against the perpetrators of the tax credit scam, one that was "destined for dismissal by design."

Ople urged Desierto to "confront the allegations against him squarely."

When advised of the possible reopening of the Senate probe, in which he had testified, Felix Chingkoe replied, "We would gladly join the hearings again." ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Agnes Donato***

GMA . . .

From page A1

terrorism in some isolated parts of southern Philippines," she added.

The President's visit to London is the first leg of an eight-day foray into economic diplomacy that would also take her to Canada and the United States.

Officials here said Blair was expected to discuss with Ms Macapagal Scotland Yard's willingness to help Philippine law enforcers stop kidnappings.

They said Scotland Yard was willing to train Philippine lawmen on intelligence gathering, gathering of evidence and prosecution of arrested kidnapping suspects.

Although some of the biggest kidnapping cases in the Philippines had been blamed on the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, which the United States had listed as part of an international terrorist network, kidnappings continued to plague Metro Manila and embarrass police authorities.

Officials said Scotland Yard could supplement efforts by the Philippine government to bring the Abu Sayyaf down on its knees. The group is based on the southern Philippine islands of Basilan and Sulu.

But officials said Scotland Yard's focus would be on kidnapping syndicates that operate outside Mindanao since the United States is now currently conducting war games with Filipino soldiers believed primarily aimed at crushing the Abu Sayyaf.

Efforts to combat kidnappings appear to be a daunting task, however, since the Philippine police suffer from lack of credibility and a perception that it is corrupt and inefficient.

The PNP is trying to erase that public perception. Last week, it announced that it was installing global positioning systems in Manila police patrol cars in an effort to modernize crime-fighting techniques.

It is uncertain if Scotland Yard will provide pieces of equipment to help the PNP modernize or to what extent it is willing to help the Philippine police fight kidnappings.

The agenda of the President's visit will not be made clear until she arrives here today. Yesterday was rainy and temperature was 9 degrees Celsius.

An itinerary prepared by Malacañang on the President's trip said neither Ms Macapagal nor Mr. Blair would issue an official statement after their meeting.

But Ms Macapagal, Palace officials said, may answer reporters' questions outside the Prime Minister's residence after the meeting.

The President is scheduled to also meet with other British officials, among them former Prime Minister Margaret Tatcher.

Too dependent

"This is my first trip to Europe since I became the President. It is important that we pay more attention to Europe because we are too dependent on the American market," Ms Macapagal told Manila-based Bombo Radyo in an interview.

"It was fortunate that the domestic market was healthy when the US market slumped, otherwise our economy could have gone down with it," she added.

Europe accounted for just 18.1 percent, or $6.9 billion, of the total Philippine merchandise exports of about $38 billion in 2000, compared to the US share of $11.37 billion or 29.8 percent, according to official figures.

Total Philippine exports to Europe in 2000 were only slightly more than its exports to Japan totaling $5.6 billion.

"We need to look for new markets in Europe," Ms Macapagal said.

Britain is the top European investor in the Philippines, she said, while Canada is a key provider of official development assistance, particularly for projects in Mindanao.

The President is also scheduled to address the World Economic Forum in New York.

She said she would use the trip there to drum up foreign investor interest in the scheduled sale this year of the generating and transmission assets of the National Power Corp.

"We will launch a road show for investments in our power sector in New York," she said. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AFP***

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 7798** (Reg. Case No. CA-0367-96) entitled **SIMEON JIMENEZ versus DAR SECRETARY ERNESTO GARILAO, DAR Regional Director REMIGIO TABONES, Registry of Deeds of the Province of Cavite and AGUSTO PEREZ, PEDRO CAUSAREN, CIPRIANO CLIMACOSA, FELIFE FRANCISCO and MARIANITO CAUSAREN as members of ARBA of Tres Cruzes, Tanza, Cavite** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on January 25, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Pedro Causaren** and **Marianito Causaren** whose last known address was in **Brgy.Tres Cruzes, Tanza, Cavite** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 9, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
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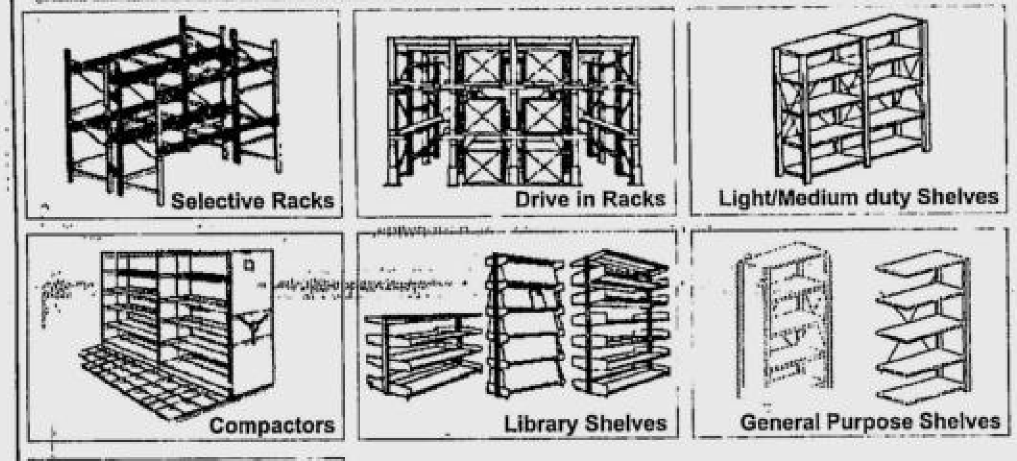

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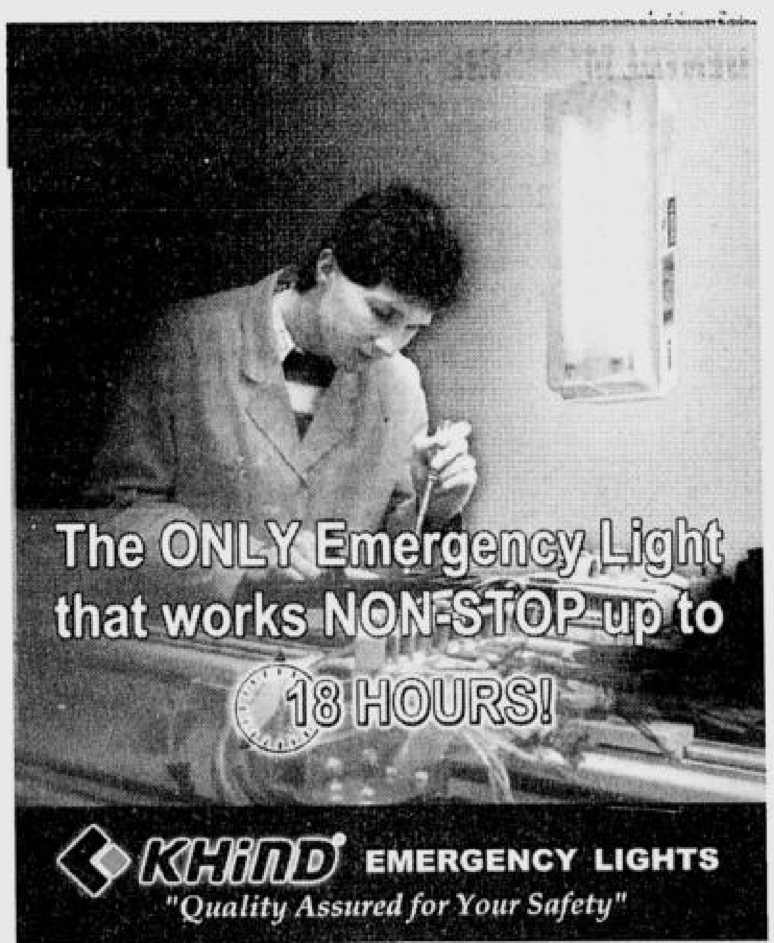
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Inquirer-Jan. 14,21&28 2002

Estrada required to face new Sandigan court today

By Volt Contreras

EX-PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada will be required to face today the new Sandiganbayan special division that was created to hear his criminal cases, despite the continuing objection by his lawyers over the composition of the court.

The new panel chaired by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario ordered police last Friday to present Estrada before the court at 2 p.m. today, along with his co-accused son Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio.

Estrada's lawyers, however, are set to ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its inclusion of Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro in the new division.

De Castro faces an administrative complaint and petition for inhibition filed by Estrada's lawyers over a heated exchange in court last year.

De Castro is a member of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division, which initially handled three of the four cases against Estrada, including the main charge of economic plunder.

Lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the defense will definitely bring up the issues against De Castro at today's hearing.

Flaminiano said the defense will also ask the new panel to first deal with at least "seven unresolved pleadings" that it is inheriting from the Third Division, including Estrada's motion for reconsideration of his request for house arrest and his motion to include "juetenggate" whistleblower Luis "Chavit" Singson among the accused in the plunder case.

Also today, a new prosecution witness is expected to establish the paper trail of the deposed president's alleged "commission" check from the Belle Corp. stock transactions to the infamous "Jose Velarde" bank account.

Prosecutors said Ma. Socorro Yolanda de Leon, a Bank of the Philippine Islands officer, will testify on the P187.9-million I-bank check that was issued by the firm that sold the Belle Corp. shares in October 1999.

De Leon will continue the narrative given in previous hearings by Belle vice president Willie Ng Ocier, who claimed to have personally delivered the check to his cousin and Estrada businessman pal, Jaime Dichaves.

Last Friday, the special division appointed its own spokesperson—Renato Bocar, Sandiganbayan director for legal research and technical staff.

Bocar said the special court is finalizing a new set of guidelines for the Estrada cases, particularly concerning the trial schedule.

The "draft" guidelines call for "three hearings per week, probably to be held in the morning," he said. Under the current setup, the trial is heard every Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Bocar also said the three justices making up the special division "are not being relieved of their memberships in other divisions and will continue to hear cases pending in their respective divisions."

DOLE wants SSS benefits for vendors

STREET vendors and other hawkers could soon avail of social security benefits as the Department of Labor and Employment pushed for increased assistance to such workers.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the DOLE recently revived discussions with the Social Security System on the feasibility of enrolling workers categorized as belonging to the informal sector in the agency.

"They're the ones who are most exposed to pollution and sickness so I think they deserve assistance, too," Sto. Tomas said during a dialogue with workers in the formal and informal sectors at the DOLE on Friday.

Sto. Tomas said the DOLE started talks with the SSS last year but the strike and eventual ouster of agency chief Vitaliano Nañagas III stalled the discussions on the membership of street vendors and hawkers.

She said the DOLE will start enrolling the informal sector workers in the SSS within the year in three pilot areas, although she did not identify the places.

The DOLE chief also said she will seek a meeting with top police officials to air the complaints of many street vendors about arbitrary arrests.

Blanche S. Rivera

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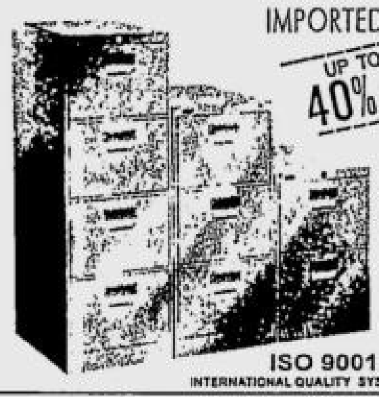

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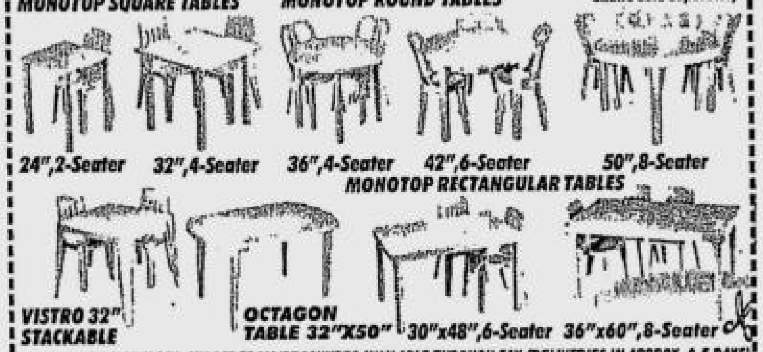

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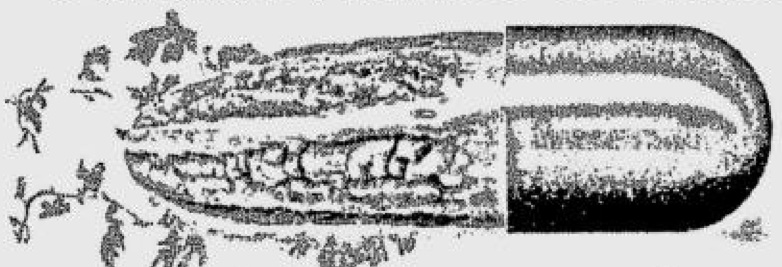

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Fair play

IT is almost a truism in the highly competitive world of sports to say that athletes exhibit on the playing field what sports officials conspicuously fail to practice in the boardroom. We mean those values which in a simpler age were included in the single virtue of sportsmanship: an old-fashioned sense of fair play, a passion for the game that goes beyond mere winning or losing.

EDITORIALS

Last week, we were reminded of those values—but by a sports official, not an athlete. The occasion: Butch Tuason's resignation as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, the sole policymaking agency for all amateur sports in the Philippines and, more to the point, the main source of financial support for the country's amateur athletes.

Tuason, who filed his letter of resignation on Jan. 17 and held a "farewell press conference" on Jan. 22, said he was leaving the PSC because he wished to spare the President and her husband, Jose Miguel Tuason Arroyo, from further intrigue. "Relentless insinuations and criticisms being hurled at me reflected (on) the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who is my cousin," said Tuason. "Even President (Macapagal) herself is being affected (even) if the charges don't have any basis."

Tuason was appointed PSC chair three years and seven months ago—and thus did not fall under the scope of the President's Administrative Order No. 1, which imposes a ban on the appointment of presidential relatives to government office. Indeed, Tuason served for a year under his cousin's wife. But it was only last December, he said, when he realized the full impact on the First Couple of the "negative reports" he bore the brunt of. Thus the resignation: "I don't want to further burden them by staying in the office one minute longer."

In our country's machismo-driven culture, resignation before exoneration is tantamount to admission of guilt, or at least a damning lack of fighting spirit. That is why many government officials rendered ineffective by repeated accusations of graft and corruption refuse to leave office (unlike, say, in the more "face-oriented" culture of the Japanese). And this is why, regardless of one's politics, one must recognize Tuason's resignation for the praiseworthy act it is. He didn't want to, and culturally he didn't need to. But in the end he felt he ought to. It was a decision that went beyond mere winning or losing.

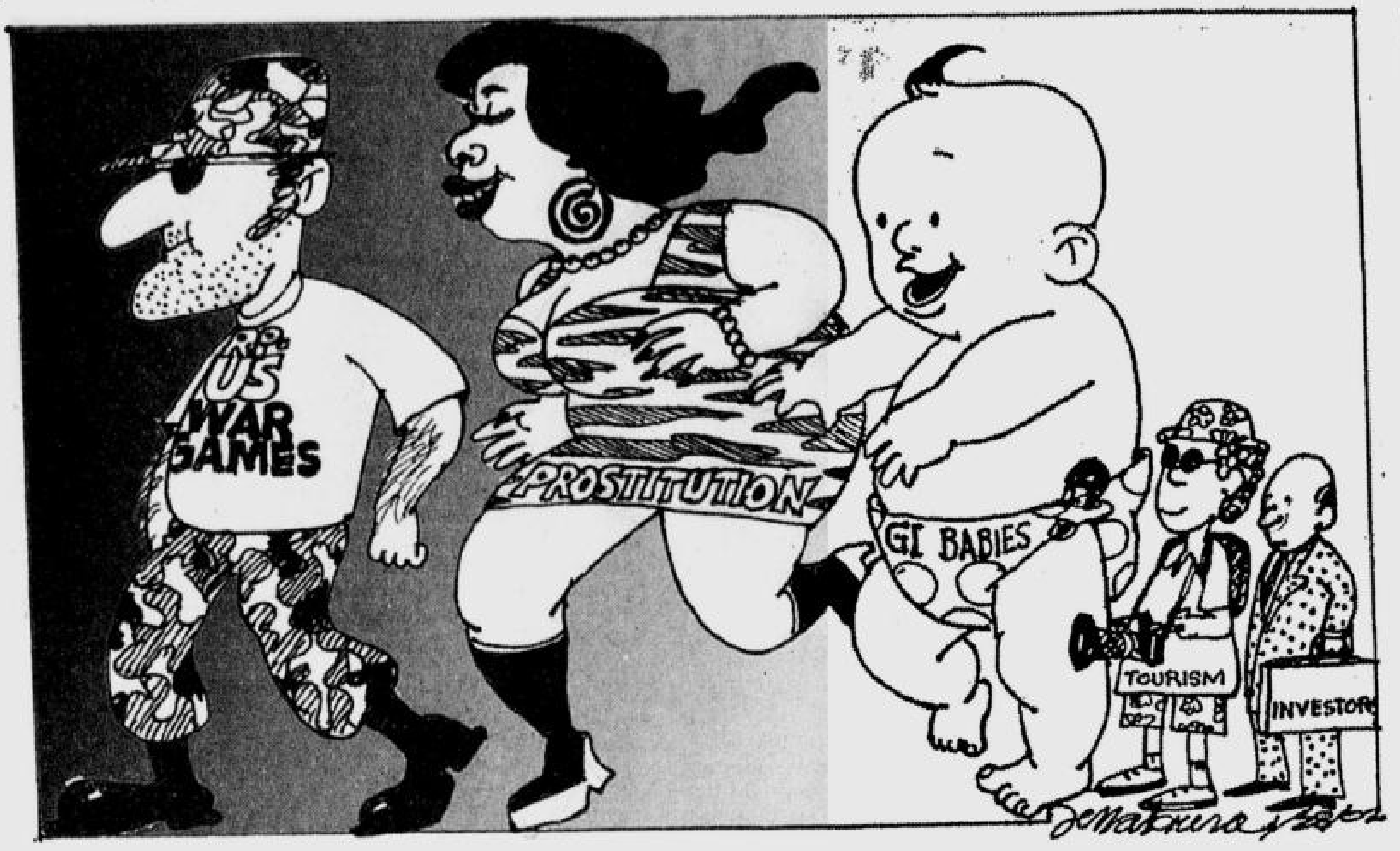
Fighting spirit

TUASON'S successor is multi-medalled swimmer Eric Buhain, an articulate advocate of sports reform. It is a savvy choice by the President, at least as far as the principal constituency of the PSC is concerned. Athletes will know that they have a sympathetic ear in what is essentially the government's regulatory agency overseeing amateur sports development. Athletes will also likely take to Buhain's brand of reform, which seeks to restore the sportsman—not the sports official, not the sports benefactor, not the sports journalist, not the sports advertiser—to the center of sports development.

But being an athlete is no guarantee that one will be an able administrator. His background will give Buhain, as it has given other PSC commissioners who are former athletes, instant credibility. It may, perhaps, also give him the physical stamina to come to work early and leave the office late, because judging from the latest Southeast Asian Games debacle, sports development is hard, unglamorous work.

But the main task that faces Buhain is longer-term in scale and administrative in nature, because the principal job of the PSC is essentially to run an agency and hand out subsidies.

One measure of how difficult the job is lies in the Asian Games dilemma. Right now, the attention of the public is focused on the country's preparation—or the lack of it—for the 14th Asiad in Pusan, South Korea, which begins on Sept. 24. Unfairly or not, our athletes' performance there will be used as a basis for judging Buhain's fitness for office. But if Buhain is true to his mandate, if for instance, he will take steps to trim the fat off the sports bureaucracy, performance in such a near-term competition may be compromised. It is a difficult balancing act, and he will need all his sportsman's fighting spirit to pull it off.



Who is our enemy, the Americans or the Abu Sayyaf?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FROM THE FURY with which Filipinos oppose the arrival of American soldiers for the Balikatan war exercises here, you'd think the enemy is the United States and not the Abu Sayyaf bandits. And if you're not careful, you'd think the whole Filipino nation is against the GIs. That was what I thought when television flashed on the screen images of Filipinos picketing the arrival of giant US cargo planes in Zamboanga until I looked closer at the signs they were carrying. They said: "Welcome Joe" and "We love you America" and other such expressions of endearment. The Zamboangueños were actually welcoming the Americans!

Such ambivalence and split personality are even more evident when you listen to arguments on the subject between Filipinos living in Luzon and in Mindanao. I happened to overhear such an exchange during the weekend at a coffee shop in Quezon City.

"You people from Luzon are against US soldiers helping to flush out the Abu Sayyaf terrorists because you're away from the fighting," said one. "You have never been victims of the Abu Sayyaf. You have no relative who has ever been kidnapped by these bandits."

"Don't think that being kidnapped is the exclusive privilege of you Mindanaoans, Omar," replied the other. "We also have kidnappings and bank robberies here almost every day but did you hear us call the United States for help? We rely on our own police and military to look for the kidnappers to save the victims. They are usually the first at the scene of the crime."

"They arrive at the crime scene first because they're the kidnappers and robbers themselves," replied Omar. "But they've been chasing the Abu Sayyaf bandits for a year now but haven't even seen the shadow of them, Juan. And they're running out of bullets, planes, soldiers and money. Isn't it about time we ask the Americans for help?"

"That would be against our sovereignty and our Constitution," said Juan. "Do you want Americans shooting at Filipinos?"

"Would you rather have the Abu Sayyaf shooting at you?"

"Don't you see the sinister design of the United States?" Juan said. "First, it is Basilan. Then it would be the whole Mindanao. Then it would be the whole Philippines. We would lose our sovereignty to America."

"I would rather lose our sovereignty to America than to terrorists, like what happened to Afghanistan. At the rate we're losing the war to the Abu Sayyaf bandits, it won't be long before they run the whole country."

"Omar, you would rather have the Americans occupy the Philippines than be independent?" cried Juan.

"All the places occupied by the Americans are the best developed places in the Philippines," replied Omar. "Look at Clark, look at Subic, look at General Santos. The best and biggest shipping ports and airports in the Philippines were built by the Americans. If the Americans occupy the whole of Mindanao, it would be better developed than the rest of the country."

"At the price of our pride?"

"Would you rather be proud but poor? Juan, Filipinos can't even feed its own people. We ask the United States for rice and food aid all the time and we have no problem with our pride. We always ask for loans and financial grants and we don't lose our pride. We accept medicine and used clothing during disasters with our pride intact. They offer to help rescue two of their countrymen kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf and suddenly our pride becomes too big to accept that offer of help. Why?"

"You have not been listening to our senators and congressman, Omar. Listen to them," said Juan.

"I hear them loud and clear," replied Omar, "but their words are different from their actions. Our senators and congressmen go to the United States at the drop of a hat. They have houses and families there. The first thing that any Filipino president does is to go on a state visit to the United States and ask for help. *Sino ba talaga ang kalaban natin,* Juan? *Ang* Abu Sayyaf *ba o ang mga Amerikano*? Are we more afraid of the Americans than of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists?"

"*Hindi naman takot*, Omar. We have our Constitution, you know..."

"If the terrorists or the communists overrun our country, would we still have that Constitution?" interjected Omar.

"We have to respect and defend it while we have it."

"All I know is you people from Luzon are cowed by the leftist militants while we in Mindanao are afraid of the bandits, not the Americans. Think of it, Juan. If the Americans occupy Mindanao, we will have more General Santoses, Clarks and Subics here. The whole island will be developed. People, especially the women, will have jobs. America can even build a new Las Vegas here. Filipinos won't have to go to Las Vegas anymore. Who cares if the peso-dollar exchange rate deteriorates? We will have plenty of dollars. We will have snow and white Christmases. We will grow apples, pears and grapes in Mindanao."

"Omar, Omar, wake up, you're dreaming."

"I'm not dreaming, Juan. Look at Japan and Germany. They were defeated and occupied by the Americans during the war. That was the best thing that happened to them. Now they're among the richest and best developed countries in the world. Look at the Philippines. We were freed by the Americans. Look at us now."

* * *

Comments are welcome asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Games people play

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SPOKE with the Vice President, and still Foreign Secretary, Teofisto Guingona, last Friday. He said my rebuke of him on his decision not to resign from his foreign affairs post was appreciated, but begged to tell his side of the story.

First off, he said, he wanted to put it on record that he did not sign anything, which would have constituted a betrayal of principle. Certainly, he did not lend his endorsement to the presence of American combat troops on Philippine soil, to which he remained opposed. He merely bowed down to the ruling of the justice department, which put the problem beyond the DFA.

Second off, he continued to be opposed to the presence of American troops in the Philippines, and to the very real prospect of American military presence in this country being revived in a big way through other agreements government was contemplating signing with the Americans. That left him with two options.

To resign was one of them. It would have been dramatic, but it would also have been short-lived. After the drama, the other officials of government who were determined to ram the agreements down the public's throat would have been free to have their way. There would be no one to scrutinize their actions from the inside, there would have been no one to expose them from the inside, there would have been no one to fight them from the inside.

Staying on made those things possible. The fight was long-drawn. The people who approved of the American troops in Basilan just won a battle, not the war.

Well, I'm not so sure the impact of the foreign secretary, who is also the Vice President, resigning would have been small, or fleeting. Not least because of the difference in moral clout the current President and Vice President wield. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's claim to the presidency is largely legal, not moral. She was the last to join the fight to topple the past tyranny. Guingona's claim to the vice presidency is both legal and moral. He was at the forefront of that fight. An open break between the current President and Vice President (as foreign secretary), quite apart from its normal implications, would be in this case a moral deterrent to future attempts by this administration to compromise the sovereignty of this country.

Having an ally inside to scrutinize and oppose moves to undo the work of the nationalist titans—Recto, Tañada, Diokno, Salonga—is good only where it meets two conditions. One is that there is a threshold, or limit: You cannot keep going along with iniquity on the grounds that it allows you to stop further iniquity in the future. People who flee to live to fight again another day must always provoke questions about when that other day will come. Two is that the justice department is always confronted when it foments injustice. Where is the sense in scrutinizing and exposing future iniquities when the justice department remains free to rule they are not iniquities and slam the door on the DFA?

But I grant there are formidable advantages as well to having someone who has not succumbed to the delusions or enticements of power, but can still think clearly, continue to serve a vital role in government. My respect for Guingona has not been diminished, particularly given that the once stalwarts of civil society who would not have stood idly by while their country was being mugged, but who now occupy minor positions in government, have been reduced to utter speechlessness.

At least Guingona has made his opposition known, which should exert moral suasion on the discourse. It does not matter if you gain the whole world but lose your soul—but for minor government positions? And still while at this, whatever happened to the self-proclaimed heroes of Edsa II, many of whom are members of Pagbabago? This is the kind of change you have in mind for the country? No, my respect for Guingona has not been diminished. He looks positively heroic here.

None of this is dismissed by saying, "Easy for you to say, you have nothing to lose." At the very least because that is refuted by saying, "Well, who told you in the first place to crave the position you now desperately want to cling to?" But infinitely more than that, because that is refuted by the fact that we **all** have something to lose if American military presence is brought back to this country, which is more than any position in government, minor or major. We stand to lose our past, which is the work of our heroes, in ridding ourselves of a real terror. We stand to lose our present, which are the dreams of Edsa I and II. And we stand to lose our future, which is our ability to chart it with our own hands.

It's the attitude behind the current justifications for the American troops in Basilan that truly infuriates. An attitude that resurrects the very thing Recto et al. fought against: mendicancy. Thailand too has its problems with renegades, kidnappers and big-time drug pushers, but its leaders would find it the funniest thing in the world to invite American troops to the Burmese triangle to solve them. Indonesia has its problems with secessionist minorities, who have been employing terrorist methods, but its leaders too would not dream of inviting American troops to Indonesia to solve those problems. Singapore has unearthed an al-Qaida cell in its country, but do you hear Lee Kuan Yew yelling his head off for a swarm of FBI agents to help solve it? Only we do, and to solve a gang the AFP describes as small, demoralized and on the run.

Is it a wonder all the Southeast Asian countries have left us biting their dust? Sovereignty, or the attitude that informs it, which is a fierce sense of independence, **can** be eaten. Ask Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon. He was the first to eat the fruits of what he said was completely inedible.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

No substitute for intelligence-gathering

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT news report that attempts by a notorious kidnap gang operating in Mindanao to kidnap an American executive of Dole Food Co. Inc. were foiled by the police was the first piece of good news from that big island in a long time. Two leaders of the Pentagon Gang, which has become notorious for the kidnap of a number of foreigners in Mindanao, including an Italian priest, were killed after they swooped down on the executive's house at the Dole compound inside the plantation, where the lawmen were waiting for them; other gang members were being hunted down after the gunfight. Earlier government forces had looked quite helpless in foiling various gangs' kidnap plans, and their efforts always involved rescue attempts with varying degrees of success. But now, for the first time, the lawmen were able to prevent a kidnap; they ought to be promoted.

* * *

The police had been tipped off about the kidnappers' plans and with the help of the villagers, they prepared for the gangsters. Central Mindanao police chief Bartolome Baluyot attributed their success to the PNP's advance intelligence information—amply demonstrating how an effective intelligence network can work wonders for the law-enforcers. I daresay that if only the AFP/PNP's intelligence network had been as effective in other abduction cases in the past, perhaps the situation in Mindanao would not have deteriorated to the point where the Americans have to be called in. The problem with intelligence-building, however, is that it cannot be an overnight thing and needs patience and dedication and funding. But as the case of the Pentagon gang showed, every expense, time and effort spent on intelligence is worth it.

* * *

New LTO Chief Roberto Lastimoso and MMDA Chief Benjamin Abalos have promised to work hard to ease traffic in Metro Manila. For starters, they could do a number of sensible steps, such as policing vital intersections notorious for traffic congestion; finishing road constructions in the shortest possible time and imposing no-swerving for buses. But there are other urgent problems that the two officials have to find solutions for, and one of them is the security of the common people who ride in jeepneys and buses. Hold-ups in buses and jeepneys have become common, and the citizens have become prey to hold-up gangs who not only take their money, doubtless the fruit of their daily toils, but many times also their life.

My brother's employee related the holdup men's modus operandi: four men and a woman boarded the bus she was riding in along Edsa, in front of Mantrade. All were decently dressed, some even carrying portfolios (that turned out to contain guns or knives). They fanned out among the passengers and before reaching Guadalupe Bridge they poked knives into the passengers' side and with their loot quickly alighted; the employee lost hard-earned money intended for an nstallment payment on a small lot. Hold-ups are a menace to the common citizens that ought to be stopped.

* * *

Another problem that Lastimoso and Abalos should tackle are the speeding trucks that harm and kill. Many of our drivers have become maniacs and the authorities don't do anything about it. I recently read about an engineer and his driver who were killed after a speeding truck hit their vehicle. But the impact of maniacal drivers was driven home to many of us after a dear friend recently lost her life—a victim of maniacal driving. And a precious and beautiful life it was.

Josefina "Jojo" Eduarte graduated valedictorian at the Centro Escolar University, then pursued medicine at the UST, graduating cum laude; she then took her master's degree in public health at the UP Manila, and proceeded to take her doctorate in medicine at the University of Navarre in Pamplona, Spain, graduating cum laude. She then obtained her residency in gastroenterology at the University of Navarre's hospital, under the mentorship of a holy and renowned Spanish doctor, Eduardo Ortiz de Landazuli, whose process of beatification has recently been opened. Back home Dr. Eduarte worked for a few years in United Laboratories and as medical coordinator at the Ayala Healthcare and Healthway; recently she assumed the chairmanship of the bioethics department of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, where she was a faculty member. As a side activity, Eduarte was the coordinator physician for a social project called "Adopt A School Project" at the Rafael Palma public school, not too far from the Opus Dei-run Emerald Center in Manila, where she stayed.

* * *

Dr. Eduarte was so happy and eager to serve in the PLM post, as hers had been a life of unselfish and dedicated service to God and country; but her brightly burning life was cut short at 43 years last Jan. 15. On her way to the PLM, the 18-passenger public jeepney she was riding in was hit by a speeding 40-foot wheeler truck. As her colleague at Emerald Center, Corito Bautista, related it at the funeral Mass for Jojo, the impact was so great that the passengers were all thrown out of the jeepney. Jojo suffered multiple head fractures and was dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Maynila; several other passengers died afterwards too, and others were in very serious condition. The Rome-based prelate of Opus Dei, Bishop Javier Echevarria, sought to console Jojo's parents by telling them that their daughter is now in heaven, and doubtless, with her life of deep piety, she is. But the problem of maniacal drivers is very much with us, and they ought to be prosecuted by our authorities.

Places

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

I THOUGHT I was a most favored child of the cosmos when on the first hour of my last birthday, the heavens sent down a spectacular shower of meteorites, which I watched, mystified, for close to two hours, lying down on a mat up on the roof. What hubris.

Because a few hours later I was so rudely awakened by the horrible sound of guns. At the end of the day, over 100 people were dead. To say that it was the worst birthday I ever had would be the understatement of my life.

Then, almost as soon as we were starting to get on with our lives as usual, 19 people died on a bloody afternoon that should never have happened. The following day, three human beings were disemboweled, one of them decapitated, when they were already dead or dying after being shot at.

So, how do you cope with all that stress? How do you survive constantly living on the edge? How can you be true to yourself in Pleasantville that is so unrelentingly black and white, showing your true colors can be perilous? Where the voice of truth is drowned out by the noise of numbers? How can you march to your own beat when there isn't even supposed to be one? How do you keep the music playing in a place where the music has died?

To friends both here and abroad who have sent text messages asking the questions summarized above, the answer is: there are ways.

I haven't read a single Harry Potter book, but while still in college I was able to borrow a stolen copy of Tolkien's book, which I read every 1 to 2 p.m. (after lunch and before my first afternoon class), sitting there on the grass behind the UP main library building.

But almost as soon as I finished "The Lord of the Rings," my time was up, and it had to be passed on to somebody else in the group. The lucky one who stole it got to keep it for life. Yes, for us, then, stealing books was "cool."

For me now, no trip to Manila is ever complete without a visit, rather a pilgrimage, to the La Solidaridad bookstore. The last time I was there, just in time to get the last copy of "In the Shadow of the Prophet," which should be required reading for anyone who seeks to comprehend the so-called Mindanao conflict and even the World Trade Center attacks, I asked the salesclerk if students still stole their books.

With an amazing look of recognition on her face she asked me pointblank: Were you one of them?

I told her she was quite young, she couldn't have been there then. How did she know?

Just a month ago, she said, she had attended a conference where "one of you" related how as students they stole books mostly from La Solidaridad.

"*Pinagyayabang pa niya,*" she said in a half-spiteful, half-amused manner. "*Siguro ka*-batch *mo 'yon. Taga*-UP *din, eh.*"

"Well, at least we had taste," I said, hoping flattery would get me somewhere. Or that snobbishness would at least intimidate her.

"*Pero pagnanakaw din 'yon,*" she said, unfazed and unimpressed.

"Try to understand," I countered. "We were students, we didn't have money and we loved to read, enough to steal good books. That's one reason I always come here now to buy (with emphasis) books."

"To ease your conscience?"

"For the free copies of Solidarity that at least make up for the free tea we used to have here," I said pointedly.

"*Ayun, may libreng* tea *na pala kayo, ninanakaw pa ninyo 'yung mga libro, ano ba 'yan!*"

She really didn't get it. So I just asked if they had anything on the Kabbalah, and her attention was promptly diverted as she led me to the "mysticism" collection.

But going back, I really didn't mind not having read the entire trilogy. Frankly, all those tongue-twisting names confused me. Besides, at the risk of being thought of as a retardate, I have to confess I'm still fixated on "Alice in Wonderland."

I first met Alice, the Queen of Hearts, the Cheshire cat, the Mad Hatter etc., in a coloring book when I was 6, and a year later when I could read well enough to comprehend what I was reading, my mother gave me a copy of Alice from Junior Classic Illustrated.

And I got so drawn into Wonderland that I even asked my mother for a dress like Alice's. It was just one among the many "Scarlet Ribbons" that I didn't even have to pray for. All it took was a hug and a kiss and the necessary "please," and even if they didn't exactly magically appear just before the dawn was breaking—sometimes it took weeks—they materialized somehow.

Although my playmates did wonder why I went around wearing an apron, I proudly wore my Alice dress, complete with matching shoes exactly like hers, for Ecko, until I got my first copy of Classic Illustrated's "Lorna Doone." No, I didn't ask for a dress like Lorna's flowing gown. I just grew my hair long.

Thus began my fascination with beautiful, suffering angst-filled heroines: Jane Eyre, Kathy of "Wuthering Heights," Edna of "St. Elmo," even Edgar Allan Poe's Annabel Lee.

But I still love Alice and the Mad Hatter. I miss Elly Pamatong on television. That stars and stripes tie he wore was obviously part of the commercial fall-out of the WTC. But for one terrible moment of envy I thought he got that hat from an auction of Charlie Chaplin's memorabilia, until somebody told me that Little Tramp did not own the famous hat. It was studio property. Oh.

And so, to Mommy, who introduced me to Alice and the world of literature, to all the friends and former classmates I stole books with, thank you so much for giving me enough places in the mind and heart to return to in the worst of times, where the one enduring lesson that sustains is that, underneath all the superficial barriers that we have built against each other, lies our shared humanity.

No separation without disestablishment

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

THE WORLD has changed in so many dramatic ways since Sept. 11. Even that comfortable old shoe of portraying the Abu Sayyaf as a mere kidnap-for-ransom gang, may have to go. It has certainly been convenient for the government, the media and the public to buy into the fiction that the Abu Sayyaf are "ordinary criminals."

For one thing, it deprives the Abu Sayyaf of any kind of political or ideological cover of respectability, something that has been easy enough to do considering the brazen criminality of their tactics. As "ordinary criminals" running a multimillion-dollar kidnap-for-ransom business, they are more easily isolated from the sources of sympathy and support that bolster the MNLF and the MILF, who have had some legitimate claim to the term "freedom fighters of the Bangsa Moro people."

Now, between the categories of "ordinary criminal" and "freedom fighter" there is another classification into which the United States is placing the Abu Sayyaf, that of "international terrorists." Since the Abu Sayyaf made it to the US list of terrorist groups, the pressure is building in the United States for some kind of strong action against them and the rescue of the American hostages, missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

It is this reclassification that will challenge our nation in the days to come. For if the Abu Sayyaf were a purely criminal kidnap-for-ransom gang, then there is hardly any justification for our seeking direct US military assistance in dealing with them. A change in the national consensus about the real nature of the Abu Sayyaf is crucial. I suppose a part of the reason why they fell into the category of "ordinary criminals" to begin with, is that before Sept. 11, their actuations were those of *tulisanes* and *ladrones*, or one of Ping Lacson's special operations groups, or even the NPA (but without the same heavy doses of political ideology and propaganda to justify their acts).

Now if we are to accept the United States finding that Abu Sayyaf founders and members have links to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida, then the Abu Sayyaf problem could be upgraded from a cops-and-robbers problem to one of national security and our international commitments. There would be a moral and legal basis for a joint Philippine-American military operation against them. Their acts may be regarded as part of a worldwide movement to destroy Western civilization by acts of mass destruction and violence against civilians.

Some may not feel it necessary to make such a conceptual change in the mind of the public, since the Filipino people overwhelmingly support getting help from the Americans anyway. But it is necessary. As for the leftist minority that is noisily opposing the arrival of US troops, many believe that they cannot be won over anyway. Take the case of Gabriela, the radical women's rights organization that made it to the front pages last week for its demonstrations at the US Embassy. We've hardly heard a peep from them until the Americans arrived. But what was their stand on the plight of Afghan women and the Taliban oppression that threw that country back to the Stone Age? Where was their show of support for the overthrow of that religious fascism?

The Americans are certainly coming here out of their own national self-interest and not out of pure altruism toward the Filipino people. That is the way truly sovereign nations act, with decisiveness and the courage of their convictions. That is already more than we could say for the Philippine government, considering the cynical violations by both Estrada and Macapagal of their own "no-ransom, no negotiation policy." One example is the administration's condoning and alleged active assistance in paying ransom for the freedom of Reghis Romero, one of the President's billionaire campaign contributors kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf last year. That shameful affair in Lamitan, when the Abus allegedly bribed the surrounding military forces to let them escape is another embarrassing example. And don't even mention Estrada and Robert Aventajado, and the alleged millions they made brokering ransoms.

But even after the Americans get rid of the Abu Sayyaf for us, I suspect that the roots of the Mindanao problem will only remain deep underground, to sprout again the shoots of national strife in the fertile soil of a dysfunctional democracy.

They are utterly wrong, those, like INQUIRER columnist Honesto General, who suggest that the Muslims are pathologically, historically or genetically predisposed to violence and crimes like kidnapping and piracy, and therefore deserve to be pulverized or converted to Christianity. At its very root, Mindanao is a constitutional problem of civil rights. Muslims in the Philippines are not treated like Muslims in America where at least their religion and culture are not disrespected and systematically mocked by the government. In the Philippines, unlike in America, we do have a state religion, in practice if not in theory, no matter how much it is denied. Our problem is not to prevent the establishment of a state religion, but to disestablish it, so all citizens are equal under the law. There can be no separation of Church and State, and hence no true democracy, no prospect for economic development in Mindanao, without disestablishment. That won't be easy with a President of only the Roman Catholics whose compass is stuck at the magnetic pole of the 2004 elections, and it is a problem that American bombs and missiles will not solve.

'PDI is pro-Ramos'

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

DURING the time of President Fidel V. Ramos, the INQUIRER was described by the propagandists of his administration as "anti-Ramos." That label stemmed from the newspaper's publication of several articles about Ramos' alleged romantic links with socialite Baby Arenas.

When President Joseph Estrada was in power, the characterization was changed to "anti-Erap." The INQUIRER was criticized for giving him bad publicity from Day One of his presidency.

For President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the description of the newspaper's feelings toward her administration has been ambivalent. When it highlights the attacks on her administration by the opposition, it is branded "anti-Gloria;" when it presents her in a good light, it is "pro-Gloria." It's a classic case of damned if you do, damned if you don't.

A reader ("edward" of <esanpol@excite.com>) has a different idea on the INQUIRER's present political orientation. It is neither pro- or anti-GMA, it is unabashedly pro-Ramos.

He wrote: "No doubt, you are a mouthpiece of former President Fidel Ramos. Why? The paper loves giving prominence to his statements. Recently, it bannered the story of an alleged 'gray area' in the Constitution on the presidency. That was funny because Ramos is not a lawyer, so why give weight to a former president who does not know the law? You merely gave him room to run his propaganda.

"Then, it carried a front-page story on his refusal to call Edsa III as such, and instead started a propaganda to call it the 'May 1 siege.' He still can't accept the fact that people can gather in hundreds of thousands even without the appeals of Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin or himself. Obviously, the paper was rather partial to his belief for carrying it below the fold.

"The paper is giving Ramos free space for his publicity stunts. It should remember that Ramos is now a former president. So stop giving him the illusion that he still runs the country. Gee, Ramos must be suffering from delusions. Wake up! He is no longer president. He may be significant because he is a former president but do you have to give him so much prominence every time?"

News value

The editor in chief smiled when I read to her the reader's letter. She recalled that the newspaper had been alternately called "pro-Ramos," "anti-Erap" and "pro-Gloria" depending on the background or ideology of whoever reads the news reports and editorials about the country's President.

She considers the labels a small price to pay for the INQUIRER's reporting the events as they happen and without regard to how whoever may be sitting in Malacañang will react to the reports.

A definite "no" was her answer to the reader's suggestion that the newspaper has become the propaganda arm of Ramos. Not that there is no love lost between the editorial staff and the former president, but it so happens that he had made certain pronouncements that, in the opinion of the staff, should be made known to the public. They had news value.

She explained that as former chief executive, Ramos' statements about current events carry some weight. He once carried the responsibility of addressing the same political, economic and social problems that President Macapagal is now grappling with. In other words, he knew what he was talking about and had the "k" to talk about them. ("K" stands for "*karapatan*" or right or authority to talk about something.)

She further said that statements of other former government officials, including Cory Aquino and Estrada, that are relevant to the issues of the day will be similarly reported for the information of the readers. It is up to the readers to decide whether those comments should be ignored or accepted at their face value.

Evaluation

The reader's observation that Ramos figured prominently on several occasions on the newspaper's front page is correct. He became news material shortly after self-proclaimed Young Officers Union spokesperson Baron Cervantes was killed on Dec. 31, 2001.

Initially, news about him was in relation to his alleged ties with the groups that want to destabilize the Macapagal administration. Then, the attention shifted to his comment that the constitutional ban on former presidents running for reelection is vague and may require clarification from the Supreme Court. In the same breath, however, he said he has no plans of running in the 2004 elections.

When the reelection issue had died down, he was back in the news with his statements criticizing the use of "Edsa III" to describe the failed attempt of hundreds of Estrada supporters to storm Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

Later, he was reported as having called on President Macapagal, in the course of his speech before an international gathering, to make good on her promises to the people if she did not want to suffer the same fate that befell her chastened predecessor.

Judging from the news reports that came out these past weeks, there is no question that "El Tabako" had more than his share of "three minutes of fame" in the INQUIRER and other media outlets during the past few days.

I agree with the comment of the editor in chief that Ramos' pronouncements on certain subject matters are newsworthy. Having held high positions of responsibility in the government, from the Philippine Army to the defunct Philippine Constabulary to the Department of National Defense to chief executive, he has the stature or prestige that justifies giving attention to some (not all) of his statements.

He belongs to the very exclusive circle of living ex-presidents of the country that includes only him, Aquino and Estrada. Unfortunately, the latter is in deep legal trouble and that situation has made a lot of difference in the way the public reads or interprets his statements on certain issues.

Deserving as Ramos may be of the attention that media have been giving him, I share the view of many that he sometimes talks too much. He loves to give interviews, answer questions from the press and volunteer his comments even if they are not being sought. By his actions, he seems to be hungering for the public adulation that he once had when he was the country's highest political leader.

In other countries, former presidents deliberately shun publicity. They let whoever is in power take the center stage in all matters relating to the country's problems. They open their mouths only when their opinions are sought on issues that they are fully and competently knowledgeable.

Statesmen know when their tour of duties have ended. They get off the stage on their own volition and do "cameo" roles only when really necessary. Too much public exposure has an uncanny way of reducing a statesman's intrinsic worth in the eyes of an otherwise adoring public.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate @inquirer.com.ph.

Credit remains beyond farmers' reach

THE NEW policy of the Department of Agriculture (DA) on providing farm-credit facilities and financing program to small farmers and fisherfolk is yet another haphazard attempt to address the crucial issue of capital inflow. to the agricultural sector.

The DA promises farmers and fisherfolk easier access to loans through the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP). Its main feature boasts of an improved access and efficient credit delivery system, through a vast network of rural banks, cooperative banks, cooperatives, non-government organizations (NGOs), and people's organization's (POs) that will be enjoined to participate in the program. Funds for credit will be sourced from the AMCFP and loaned out to these organizations, which in turn will relend it to other similar organizations until it reaches the small farmers and fisherfolk.

While the AMCFP may help in broadening the network, it doesn't address the small farmers and fisherfolk's urgent need for affordable loans. The Land Bank of the Philippines' (LBP) prevailing 12 to 14-precent rates for production, which is the lowest in the market, is still very high for small farmers and fisherfolk. What more with the AMCFP's proposed rate of 16 to 18 percent? The AMCFP's market-based rate is extremely high compared with Thailand's 3 percent and Malaysia's 3.35 percent.

Apart from improving affordability, the government must also improve the availability and accessibility of the loans. Numerous legal requirements that small farmers and fisherfolk find difficult to fulfill limit their access. To make the AMCFP attractive to them, the requirements should be simplified.

Moreover, the timeliness and immediacy of loan disbursement at affordable concessional rates and not collateral-based is crucial.

Agricultural modernization is one of the cornerstones of the Macapagal administration's anti-poverty program. The government must institute a system of providing capital to small agricultural stakeholders without further burdening the small farmers. Insisting on a market-driven policy to provide credit would extremely weaken the financial disposition of our small farmers and fisherfolk, and undermine their sources of livelihood.

But it seems that government is more than willing to leave the fulfillment of the capital needs of the agricultural sector in private hands. As it is, 70 percent of small farmers are dependent on informal sources of credit (ACPC study). This makes the farmers more vulnerable to the usurious practices and inequitable arrangements with these lenders. Instead of developing policies that would facilitate the easy access of small farmers and fisherfolk to farm-credit facilities, government still pursues a market-driven policy on rural credit. It is high time it took a bigger and proactive role in providing farm-credit delivery to ensure that small farmers and fisherfolk are able to sustain agricultural production without necessarily putting their lives on the line.—**MIGUEL RAFEL V. MUSNGI, policy advocacy and lobbying unit officer, Philippine Peasant Institute, Rm. 319 PSSC Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City**

One mistake too many about Akbayan

WE would like to call your attention to the feature titled "Gallery of Edsa II faces." (Lifestyle, 1/20/02) The montage featured, among others, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, and described her as the representative of Sanlakas. The caption went on to say she is a member of the Sanlakas international committee, Sanlakas having lost in last year's elections.

We are appalled by this gross error. Anyone who regularly monitors the news would know Rosales is an incumbent member of the 12th Congress, and is, in fact, one of the more visible members of the House. Information about members of Congress, including their party affiliations, is easily obtainable from the House secretariat, or from your own reporters who cover the congressional beat. We cannot comprehend how your research staff could commit such a huge mistake regarding such basic information.

This is the third time your publication has printed erroneous information regarding Akbayan. Last April, an article by Cathy Yamsuan identified then Akbayan legal counsel Ruben Carranza as the Bayan Muna counsel in the petition for first-time voters' registration. In May, Akbayan was omitted from the list of winning party-list organizations (in a report by Gerald Lacuarta). As much as we would like to think these errors were inadvertent, we cannot help but suspect a deliberate attempt by partisan elements in the INQUIRER staff to distort information regarding our organization.—**JOEL ROCAMORA, president, Akbayan Citizens' Action Party, 14 Mapagkumbaba St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

WE apologize for the oversight. But rest assured no conspiracy on the part of the PDI staff is afoot.—**Ed.**

Simply First Gentleman of Zambo Sur

LAST Jan. 20, your Lifestyle section featured me among the Edsa II "Gallery of Faces." I want to clarify for the sake of accuracy some of the things written in the article.

Since the last congressional elections, I have kept myself busy managing my farms and law offices in Pagadian City and Zamboanga City, and setting up livelihood cooperatives in the province of Zamboanga del Sur. I have no business interests whatsoever in any radio station and I have long divested myself of any business interests in any rubber processing plant.

At this moment, I am just happy playing the role of "First Gentleman," my wife having been elected as the first woman governor of Zamboanga del Sur.—**ANTONIO H. CERILLES, 12 South Lawin, PhilAm Homes, Quezon City**

Critical questions about US military in Mindanao

US military intervention against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan raises critical and disturbing questions. It goes beyond the usual political and legal aspects. It strikes at the very roots of our national identity:

What kind of a people are we?

What kind of a nation are we?

Where is our national dignity and self-respect?

National sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity are not mere rhetorical abstractions. They are concrete expressions of our capacity as a people to solve our internal problems; of our ability to stand up and walk without the need of crutches; of our right to gain the respect of other nations; of our confidence in our soldiers!

Inviting foreign investments, economic assistance and technical expertise is understandable. It is a norm in international relations. But allowing foreign military forces to intervene and deal with an internal problem like the Abu Sayyaf is something else.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes seem to have lost confidence in their own armed forces. Perhaps they believe that the situation has become desperate to warrant US military intervention in the Abu Sayyaf episode.

I beg to disagree. I still believe that the Filipino soldier can solve the Abu Sayyaf problem eventually. And I am convinced that US military intervention is not the solution to the problem. There is a solution highly unorthodox and seemingly incredible it may be.

In combat operations, platoon leaders, company and batt-alion commanders and their staff can get killed or incapacitated. But the platoon or company or battalion will continue to function, perhaps even more effectively. This is because the non-commissioned officers (NCOs) will take over.

NCOs (army and Marine sergeants and Navy petty officers) are the backbone and workhorses of combat and operating units. They are the ones who actually perform the spadework in military operations. I know this from my experience as commanding officer of operating units and as AFP inspector general in Camp Aguinaldo for seven years.

I therefore propose:

- That all officers of combat units in Basilan be given a leave of absence of at least 30 days.
- That NCOs be allowed to conduct unimpeded combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.
- Withdrawal of all US forces from Basilan and the rest of the country.

So why did President Macapagal and Secretary Reyes meekly accede to US military intervention in the country? The most plausible explanations are :

- It was in consideration of a promise of an undisclosed amount of US financial and material assistance from President George W. Bush.
- The Abu Sayyaf and theBurnhams' rescue operations are merely peripheral and transitional factors.
- In furtherance of US economic interests in Mindanao and the southeast Asian region.
- In furtherance of US geo-political interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

The last two are not mere speculations. They were spelled out as early as 1995 in the East Asian Strategy Report of the US Department of Defense as follows:

"(This report) reaffirms our commitment to maintain a stable forward presence in the region, at the existing level of about 100,000 troops, for the foreseeable future...for maintaining forward deployment of US forces and access and basing rights for US and allied forces. If the American presence in Asia were removed, our ability to affect the course of events would be constrained, our markets and our interests would be jeopardized."—**CAPT. DANILO P. VIZMANOS, PN (ret.); convenor, Junk VFA Movement**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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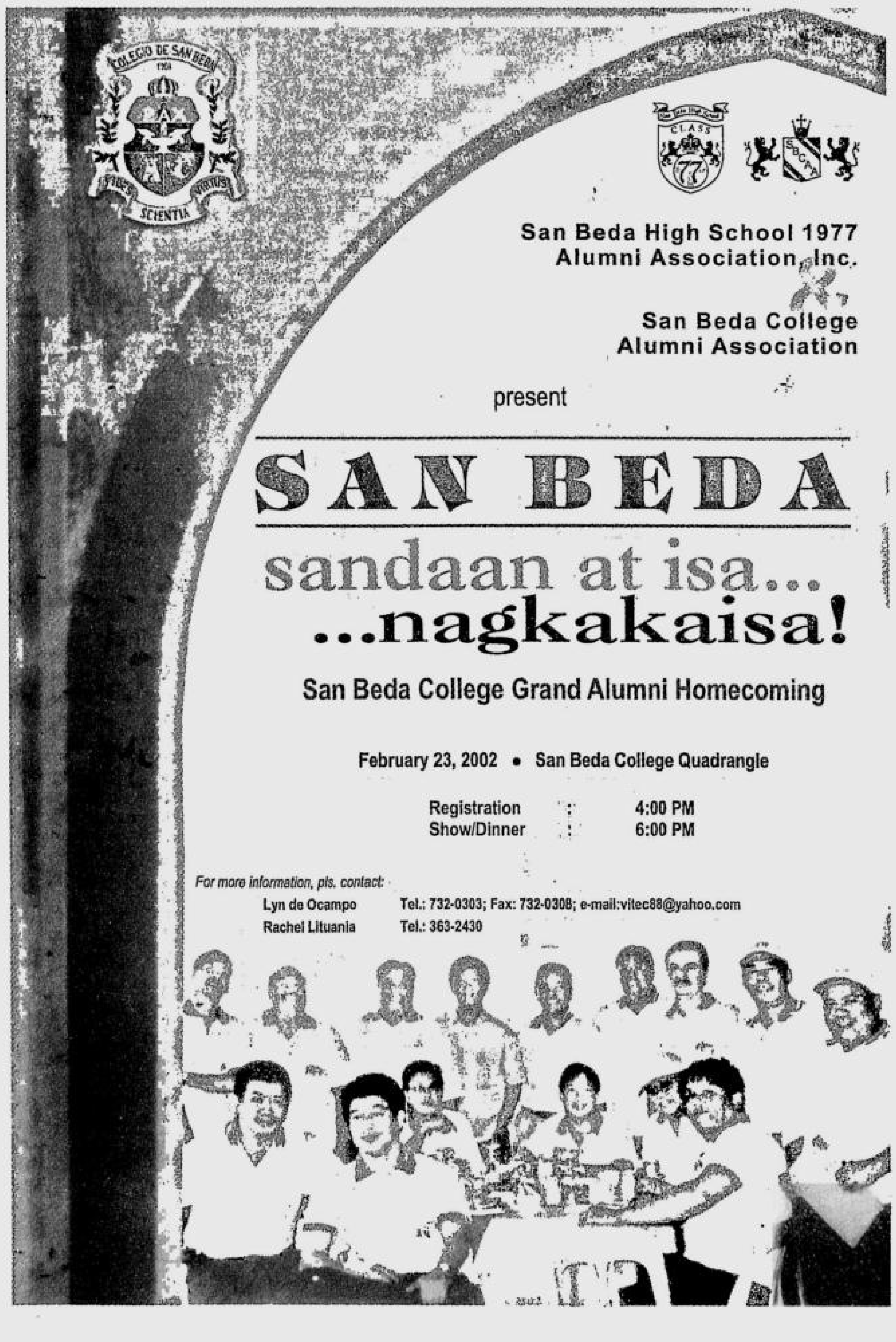

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Afghans say US commandos killed 15 innocents in raid

TARIN KOT, Afghanistan—Afghans accused US forces Saturday of attacking a school and killing people sheltering there in a raid the Pentagon said targeted Taliban fighters.

According to Pentagon accounts, Special Forces attacked two enemy compounds Wednesday night at Hazar Qadam, about 96 kilometers north of Kandahar, and killed about 15 people in a firefight. One US soldier was wounded in the ankle. Twenty-seven prisoners were taken.

But villagers in Uruzgan province, where the raid took place, said Saturday that those killed were neither Taliban nor al-Qaida fighters, but local people sent to negotiate the surrender of weapons from Taliban in the area.

In Tarin Kot, a town between Kandahar and the provincial capital, also called Uruzgan, residents said a local official, Jal Mohamad Khan, sent a party of 18 men commanded by Tarin Kot resident Haji Sana Gul to negotiate with Taliban forces on Wednesday.

They succeeded in confiscating a large cache of weapons and trucks, said Bari Gul, the brother of Haji Sana Gul. The Taliban apparently left the area, and Haji Sana Gul's men spent the night in a local madrassa, or Islamic school, with dozens of other people.

US special forces swooped in around 3 a.m. Thursday morning and shot and killed many people in the madrassa, including Haji Sana Gul, then called in an air strike, Bari Gul said. Two of the dead were later found with their hands tied behind their backs, he said.

Special forces also went to a nearby district building and killed three more people, Bari Gul said. *AP*

AFGHAN schoolchildren hold on to their books as they listen to Andrew Natsios (unseen), director of USAID, during his visit to a village of Kamari, east of Kabul Jan. 26. AP

Afghan leader open to expanded security force

WASHINGTON—Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai said he is open to the idea of expanding the work of the international security force now protecting Kabul as another official said the administration would consider keeping the forces past their current six-month mandate.

"All the delegations I've received from the countryside have asked me to send the security force all over the country, and I don't see why not," Karzai told Newsweek magazine in an interview due on newsstands Monday.

In Washington, foreign ministry spokesperson Omar Samad said the administration is primarily focused on "establishing peace and security as soon as possible all over the country, not just in one city or two, or one region or two, but all over the country."

Samad echoed Karzai's statement that the Afghan administration would consider expanding the international force as well as "extending it beyond the six months that has already been assigned under the United Nations Security Council resolution."

He said that in order to reach "an Afghan consensus" on an increased international presence, "both the international community and the Afghans have to show their willingness in case it's needed."

"So it all depends, it's conditional on if we still need the presence of international forces in Afghanistan," after the current six month mandate is over, he said.

The British-led force is expected to be about 4,500-strong by mid-February.

UN officials have suggested as many as 30,000 troops could be needed to stabilize the whole country.

Samad said the interim administration sees security as "part of the whole reconstruction package."

"Obviously, the Afghan forces have to be organized under a structure that hopefully in the future will mean that we will have a national army, a national security or police force for the local disputes that arise," he said.

Karzai, who is scheduled to arrive on his first trip to the United States on Sunday, said he intended to go to "ground zero" in New York and bring flowers to the site where the demolished twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood. *AFP*

Former Afghan king to return home mid-March

ROME—Exiled former Afghan king Mohammed Zahir Shah is preparing to return to Afghanistan in mid-March and the interim head of government there will accompany him home, the king's son said Saturday.

"He is planning to return to Afghanistan for the middle of March, before the 21st of March, to be there for Newroz (the Afghan New Year)," Mirwais Zahir told AFP.

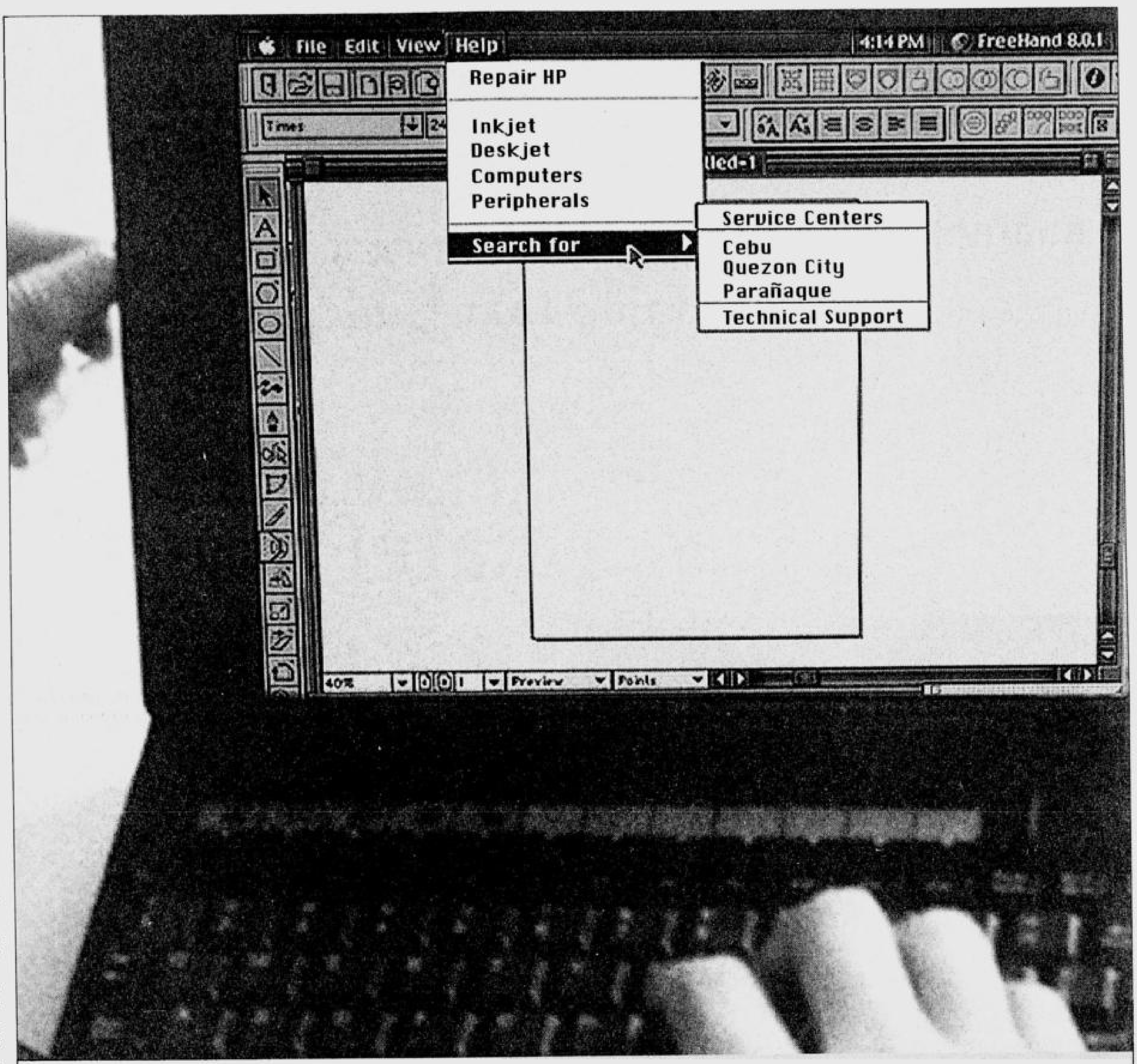
"The idea is that (interim head of government Mohammed) Karzai will come Rome to accompany my father," Mirwais Zahir added.

Zahir Shah, who has lived in Rome since 1973 after his relatively peaceful 40-year reign was ended by a coup, is seen by the United Nations as being able to play a significant role in unifying the divided Afghan nation.

The 87-year-old figurehead will supervise the traditional Loya Jirga or grand assembly of local elders expected in June to choose a two-year government.

Karzai and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan—who has just completed a historic visit to Afghanistan—announced the makeup of the 21-member commission that will be responsible for organizing the Loya Jirga on Friday.

The holding of the Loya Jirga was laid out in the inter-Afghan peace agreement drawn up in Germany last month following the collapse of the Taliban Islamic militia under US air strikes and opposition ground attacks. *AFP*



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Professional money managers also got burned in Enron debacle

NEW YORK—It wasn't just Enron employees and individual investors who bet heavily—and lost big—on the company's stock last fall. Some of the nation's largest money management firms and pension funds also got shellacked when they kept buying even as evidence of Enron's troubles mounted, often investing money set aside as retirement nest eggs.

But some industry insiders are reluctant to second-guess firms like Alliance Capital Management, which kept pouring money into Enron. From a money manager's perspective, the energy giant of last fall—with its seemingly bargain prices—still looked like a worthwhile gamble despite enormous problems.

"Over the past few months, even as the share price declined, the basic business appeared to be unaffected and standing alone could more than justify the lower price of the stock," Alliance executive Alfred Harrison wrote in a Dec. 5 letter to Florida pension officials, explaining his firm's repeated purchases of Enron stock through mid-November.

Three days before, the Houston-based company had slid into the biggest bankruptcy in US history after thousands of employees and big and small investors around the country lost fortunes in the company's plunging stock.

Investments in Enron gone awry cost the Florida State Board of Administration $306 million, more than $280 million of that in money handled by Alliance. Such losses raise the question of whether investment managers should have seen Enron's collapse coming.

Some say maybe not.

"We've been in a market where there have been a significant number of stocks that have fallen from $70 or $80 to $20," said Andrew Silton, deputy treasurer of North Carolina, whose pension fund lost $15 million after Alliance and another money management firm, Evergreen Investments, purchased Enron shares on its behalf in October.

"Certainly at the time, it didn't look like a questionable thing to be taking a look at a firm that had fallen sharply and saying 'Is there value there?'," Silton said.

Others are less understanding. Florida is suing Enron and has fired the New York-based Alliance. New York City's pension fund has joined in the lawsuit.

In addition, a handful of individual investors in mutual funds have sued Alliance, accusing the company—which was the largest single stakeholder in Enron—of mishandling their money. The investor lawsuits allege a conflict of interest by a former Alliance executive, Frank Savage, who also sits on Enron's board. **AP**

살려주세요
Help Me!

A DOG in a cage looks up during a rally to protest Korea's dog meat eating habit at a park in Seoul Jan. 27. The centuries-old habit drew wide attention as South Korea prepares to co-host the World Cup soccer finals with Japan. AFP

Activists slam S. Korea custom of eating dogs

SEOUL, South Korea—Displaying pictures of skinned dogs, several dozen South Korean animal rights activists rallied at a Seoul park Sunday to protest their country's predilection for dishes made from such meat.

The rally was to counter recent moves by dog-meat supporters to defend the South Korean culinary tradition ahead of this year's soccer World Cup, scheduled for May 31-June 30.

Shouting "Stop abusing animals," the protesters burned photographs of two South Korean national legislators who have lead a campaign to legalize the sale of dog meat in the country.

Dog-meat supporters insist that canine flesh is an indigenous Korean food culture just like horse meat, snail and pigeon in other countries.

About 3 million of South Korea's 47 million people are believed to eat dog meat as a delicacy. There are about 6,000 dog meat restaurants in South Korea.

Many Koreans consider criticism of the practice a slight to their national pride.

On Friday, some 100 South Korean dog meat restaurateurs rallied in Seoul to oppose an expected government crackdown on them ahead of the World Cup.

South Korea has no law governing the sale of the meat. Concerned about its image, the government had banned the food during the 1988 Seoul Olympics by invoking a law that prohibits the sale of "foods deemed unsightly." After the Olympics, the ban was not strictly enforced.

Dozens of national lawmakers have introduced legislation in parliament to formally legalize dog meat in South Korea. The bill is pending and is unlikely to be adopted because the majority of legislators do not support it. **AP**

Colombia rebels kill 5 policemen in ambush

BOGOTA, Colombia—A day after a bomb killed four police in Colombia's capital, authorities blamed leftist guerrillas for ambushing and killing five more police Saturday along a northern road.

The five policemen were traveling in vehicles in Cesar province when the guerrillas stopped them by exploding a bomb and then opened fire, National Police spokeswoman Azucena Lievano told The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the ambush near Manaure, about 600 kilometers north of Bogota, the capital, but police suspected it was one of the two main leftist rebel groups.

On Friday, an explosion in Bogota killed four police officers and a 5-year-old girl in an attack authorities blamed on the nation's largest rebel army, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. The bomb, planted on a bicycle, tore through a restaurant where the police officers were having lunch.

The FARC have not commented on the explosion, but have claimed responsibility for a recent wave of attacks throughout the country.

Police also accused the rebels of attacking police stations in five towns late Friday and the army said its soldiers had killed five FARC fighters Saturday in the southern Narino region.

No one was killed in Friday's attacks on police stations in Fortul, Valparaiso, Murillo, Vegalarga and Samana, said Gen. Jorge Enrique Linares, operations director of the Colombian National Police.

The violence comes as the government and the FARC try to negotiate a ceasefire to end the 38-year conflict, which kills an estimated 3,500 people a year—mostly unarmed civilians. **AP**

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Bush constrained to offer bold program in State of the Union address

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush will stand before Congress on Tuesday with his popularity at heroically high levels, his performance as a wartime commander in chief softening Americans' concerns about the weak economy.

But his advisers fear the grace period won't last—that voters will eventually grow impatient with Bush—unless he builds on his success in Afghanistan with a State of the Union address that offers a bold blueprint for the next stage of his presidency.

They say Bush will use Tuesday's prime-time address to:

o Outline the post-Afghanistan phase of the war against terrorism. Warning that America's enemies infest every corner of the globe, he will promise to do "whatever it takes" to win the war, according to a summary of the address given to key Republicans.

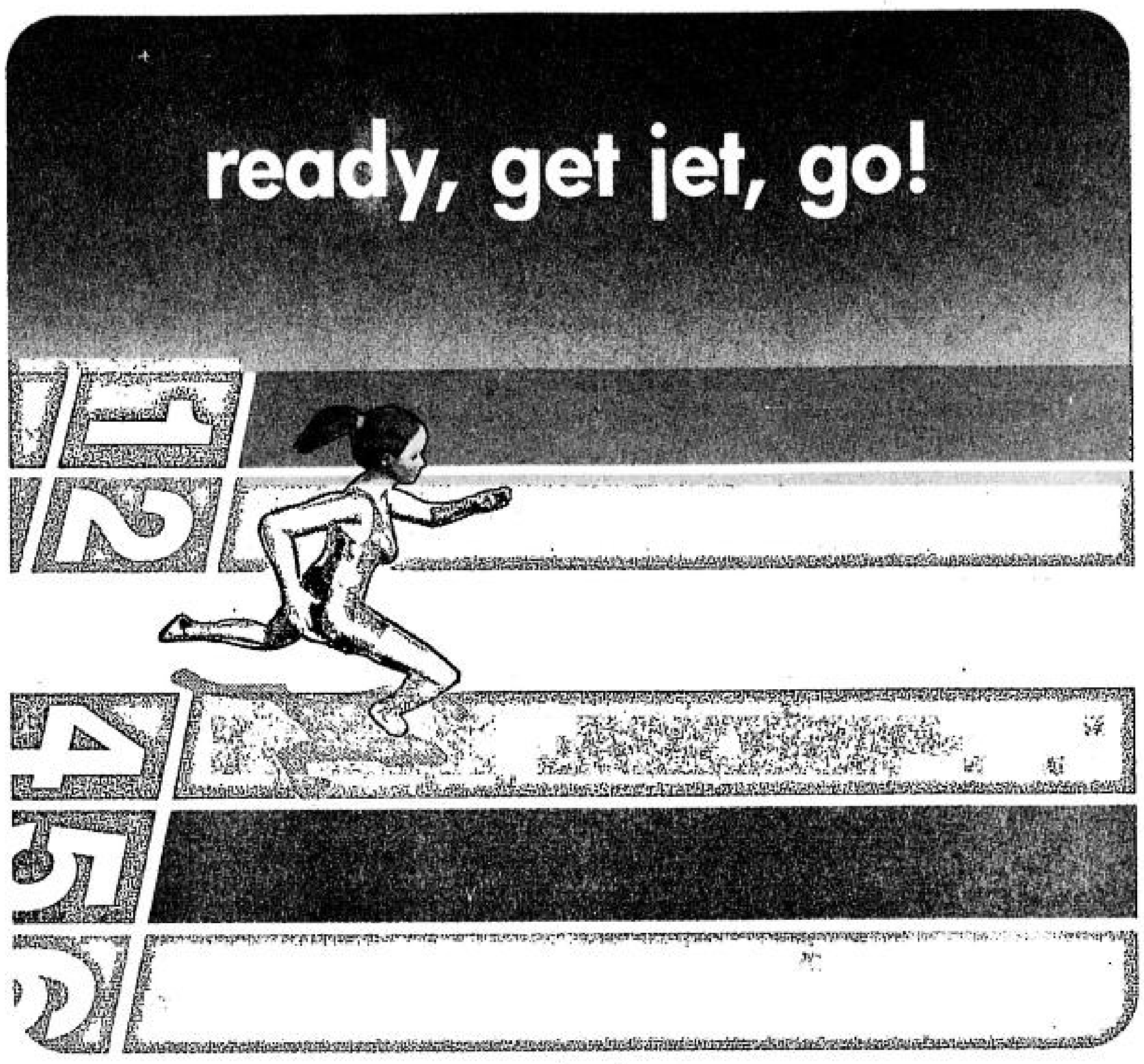
o Reassure the public that Washington is doing everything possible to prevent a terrorist strike.

o Promise more jobs and a fattened domestic agenda. With the Enron bankruptcy becoming a political problem, Bush intends to promote pension protections and more financial disclosures by companies. Aides debated whether the Enron scandal also merited a presidential slap at corporate irresponsibility.

o Unveil plans to tap the burst of community spirit inspired by the Sept. 11 attacks. He is expected to propose more money for the national service program started by President Clinton and seek an expansion of neighborhood watch programs.

"We'll work to create jobs and renew the strength of our economy. We'll protect our people in every way necessary, and we will carry on the campaign against global terror until we achieve our goal: The peace that comes from victory," Bush said in his weekly radio address, which previewed Tuesday's speech.

Aides are lining up VIPs to sit in the State of the Union audience as symbols of Bush's desire to make national security the overarching theme of his administration. The guests could include new Afghan leader Hamid Karzai, US soldiers and emergency service workers, aides said. *AP*



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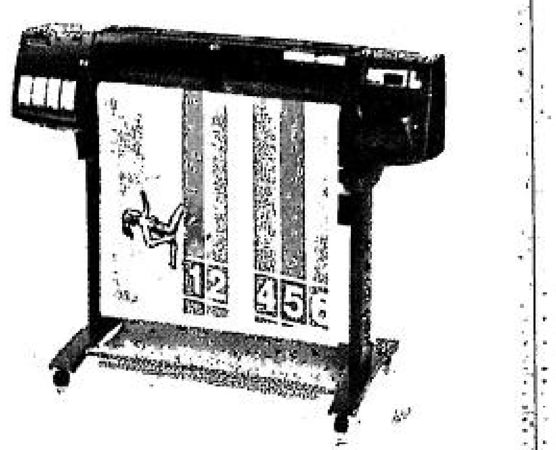

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Argentines protest anew

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina's president, under heavy pressure to end a grinding recession, asked his weary country for patience on Saturday hours after overnight street protests turned violent and injured more than 20 people.

After tens of thousands of Argentines banged pots and pans in the biggest nationwide demonstrations yet against Eduardo Duhalde, the president told local radio he needed more time to stabilize the economy after a recent painful devaluation.

"I'm asking for a little understanding," Duhalde said. "So many things have been happening lately that people forgot that this president has been in power for only 25 days."

Since taking office on Jan. 2, Argentina's fifth leader in just over a month has tried to defuse a harrowing financial crisis by reducing the peso's value by 30 percent, but the measure has put some banks on the brink of collapse and many deposits remain frozen to prevent a run.

The untouchable deposits have been the last straw for many Argentines exhausted by a deep recession in its fourth year.

Police said at least 21 people were injured and 65 arrested after Argentine riot police on motorcycles fired tear gas and rubber bullets early Saturday at small groups of protesters hours after the end of a bigger, planned demonstration.

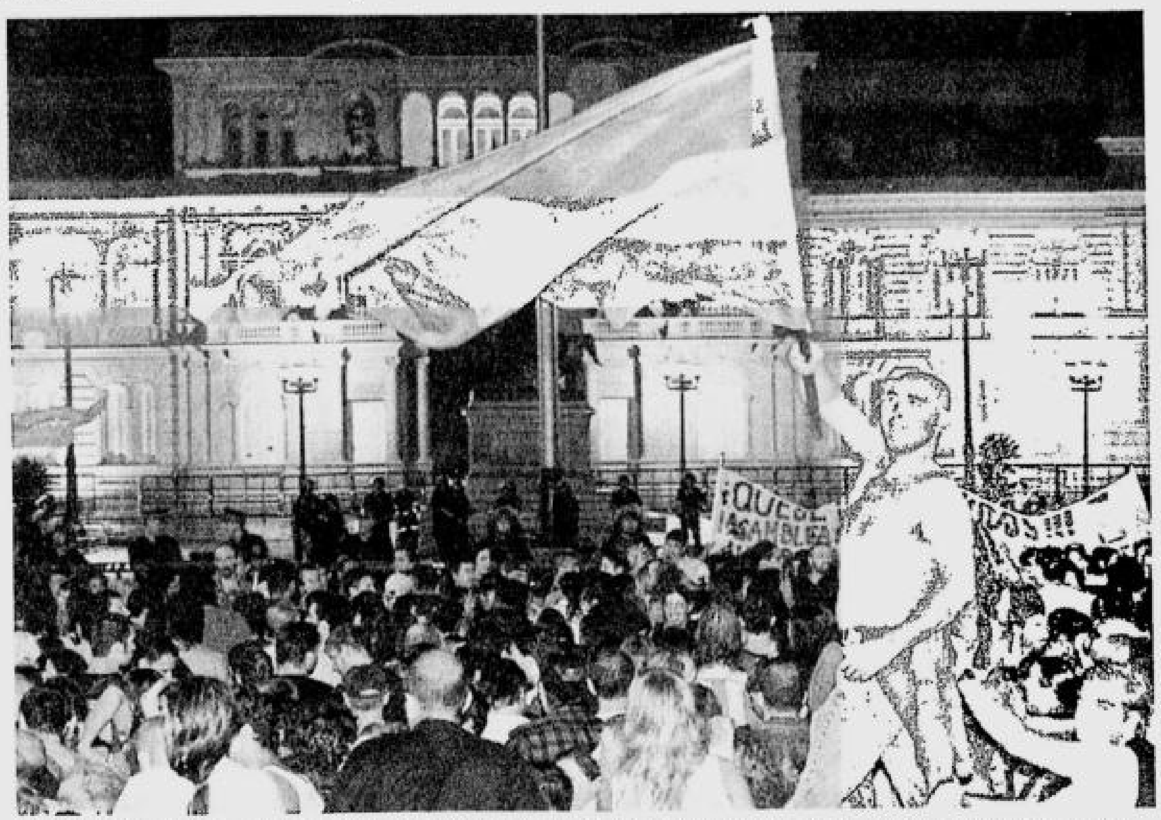
As the protest in Buenos Aires petered out amid torrential rain, police fought running battles with several hundred people near the presidential palace in the early hours of Saturday.

The protest had been planned for days by loosely knit groups of city residents and left-wing groups with the help of the Internet and by word-of-mouth.

Many restaurants and banks in the city center had boarded up their windows, nervous after previous protests ended in looting, fires and the smashing of store windows.

"This government is protecting the same interests that are making people take to the streets," Duhalde said. "Only if we all get our house in order, if we act with prudence . . . are we going to be able to make it."

The violence early Saturday was on a much lesser scale than riots in December that killed 27 people and led Fernando de la Rua to resign as president as frustration boiled over at an economic slump that has impoverished thousands. *Reuters*



THOUSANDS of Argentines chant slogans and bang pots in the Plaza de Mayo during a nationwide protest over the financial crisis, Jan. 26. REUTERS

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Aborigine asks court to spear cop to death

SYDNEY—An Aboriginal leader has asked an Australian court to spear a police chief to death for putting out a sacred fire, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

In the writ before the High Court in Canberra, Aboriginal elder Darren Bloomfield alleges Detective Superintendent Brian Hepworth "desecrated a fire ceremony" and also tried to run him over in a police car, the Sydney Morning Herald said.

"(He should be) tried under white law and then handed over to us under our law where he would be speared to death," Bloomfield said in the petition to the court.

The incident occurred last July when police moved in after the Aboriginal tent embassy on the lawns of the old parliament house in Canberra held a fire ceremony.

The makeshift embassy this weekend celebrates 30 years since it began as a beach umbrella in 1972 and grew into a small tent village to highlight Aboriginal land claims.

The embassy was repeatedly torn by police and by 1975 had ceased to be a permanent feature. But in 1992, it was revived to draw attention to sovereignty claims by Australia's 300,000 indigenous people and other issues.

A police spokeswoman said an internal investigation had been conducted into the allegations but the results could not be made public while a court case was in progress. *Reuters*

Slain Lebanese warlord Hobeika gets hero's funeral

BEIRUT—Widely reviled in life, Lebanese militiaman Elie Hobeika on Saturday received a hero's funeral from Lebanon and Syria, who saw his death as proof of the treachery of their enemy Israel.

Hundreds of weeping mourners poured from Beirut's Mar Takla Church where Hobeika's funeral was held, some tossing flowers on his coffin as it passed under a banner reading: "They feared your truth, and assassinated you."

Hobeika, whose pro-Israeli militia killed hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Beirut refugee camps after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, died on Thursday when a remote-control bomb rocked his car as he left his home in the Lebanese capital.

Lebanon and its political master Syria pointed the finger at Israel, which they said killed Hobeika to keep him from helping a Belgian war crimes suit against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon over his alleged role in the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Israel has vehemently denied any link to Hobeika's death. An obscure Lebanese group opposed to Syria's dominance claimed it killed him, calling him a traitor for having ties to Syria. The claim could not be verified.

Hobeika had enemies across the political spectrum in Lebanon, many of them one-time allies in the Israeli-backed Lebanese Forces (LF) militia who considered him a traitor for turning on the Jewish state and shifting his loyalty to Syria.

The switch allowed Hobeika to rehabilitate himself after Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, when he was elected to parliament. The various portfolios he held as cabinet minister entitled him to state honors at his funeral.

As hymns mingled with the wails of mourners, Lebanon's information minister and the former President Elias Hrawi made their way into the church, where Hobeika's coffin was flanked by those of bodyguards killed in the bombing.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, represented at the funeral by a minister, granted Hobeika the Badge of the Cedars, a medal typically awarded for national service and personal achievement, as well as to former ministers and members of parliament. *Reuters*

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	• Sweet Sensation (participation)	February 23	10 am - 3 pm	P 1,700
	• Rice Toppings (participation)	February 23	10 am - 3 pm	P 1,900
March	• Serve Safe (seminar)	March 1 & 2	1 pm - 8 pm	P 5,500
	• Heavenly Breads (participation)	March 1 & 2	10 am - 3 pm	P 3,500
	• Japanese Cuisine (participation)	March 2	9 am - 2 pm	P 1,900
	• Dimsum and Dumplings (participation)	March 2	9 am - 2 pm	P 1,900
	• Quiche and Crepes (participation)	March 9	10 am - 3 pm	P 1,700
	• Salad as Main Course (participation)	March 9	9 am - 2 pm	P 1,900
	• Cakes, Tortes and Tarts (participation)	March 9	10 am - 3 pm	P 1,700
	• Wedding Cake Decor Intensive 2 (participation) (Pre-requisite: Wedding Cake Decor Intensive 1	March 15, 16, 22, 23	10 am - 3 pm	P 6,000

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Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

Police probe of murder questioned

Family of Ople son-in-law baffled over investigation

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN JOSE, Camarines Sur—The family of Arthur Meliton San Jose, murdered son-in-law of Sen. Blas Ople, finds the police investigation into the crime confusing.

San Jose was found dead with a bullet wound in the chest Wednesday at about 2:30 p.m. inside a hotel room in Legazpi City.

Iris San Jose, the victim's sister, said the information she got from the police on her brother's death has left many questions unanswered.

"I find it unusual why the police office in Legazpi proceeded with the autopsy of Arthur's cadaver without the permission and presence of any relative," she said.

She said she wondered why the police decided to do the autopsy less than two hours after the body was discovered at Room 413 of the Magayon Hotel.

A radio reporter of Bombo Radyo confirmed, through a telephone interview with someone at the office of Senate President Franklin Drilon, the identity of San Jose based on the scant information that the police found in his belongings.

Iris also noted that some of the findings from the autopsy report of the Legazpi City Health Office did not jibe with the physical injuries she saw on the body.

She said she could not understand why the hotel personnel they approached kept mum on the circumstances behind San Jose's checking-in at the hotel.

Education Undersecretary James Jacob, a former Camarines Sur lawmaker and close friend of the San Joses, said it was uncommon for a bellboy to discover the incident at about 2:30 when the blood-stained shoe prints were all over the hotel's main hallway.

Jacob said it was abnormal that the hotel personnel would not bother to check on their guests before 12 noon, the check-out deadline, which was the usual procedure in most hotels to avoid payment complications and runaway guests.

He said it would have taken more than one attacker to subdue and tie up the hands of San Jose, a martial arts expert.

Lawyer Luis General, another close friend of the victim, said he was among the last persons that San Jose talked with before leaving his law office in here for Legazpi at about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

General said they arrived at the crime scene on Wednesday midnight and was surprised that hotel personnel were already cleaning up the room.

He said one of the employees had told him that the hotel management ordered him to clean the room with permission from police investigators to prevent the foul smell from disturbing other guests.

He said he still saw the bloodstained shoe tracks on the main hallway of the fourth floor leading to the third-floor stairs which backtracked three steps in the direction of an exit door.

He also noticed bloodstained hand marks on the wall near the door of the room where the body was found.

He said he saw a bullet mark at the ceiling, which could have been the first shot fired at San Jose while struggling with tied hands against his assailants.

Iris said the doctor who conducted the autopsy had told her that the wound caused by Arthur's bite in his lower lip was a sign that he used his remaining strength to struggle from his assailants.

Police reported that the cord was still loosely tied on Arthur's right arm when he was found slumped inside the toilet. The wash basin and toilet bowl were smashed.

The mess inside the toilet could not have happened if San Jose was shot outside.

In Legazpi, both Albay police director, Senior Supt. Reynaldo Rafal, and Legazpi chief of police, Supt. Romeo Mapalo, were not available when contacted by the INQUIRER for comments.

Their staff said the police officers had not reported because it was a Sunday.

SPO1 Ferdinand Ajero of the Albay police said he could not provide the INQUIRER any information regarding the case because the provincial director has not authorized anyone to give information. He said his superior kept the records at his office. ***With a report from Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

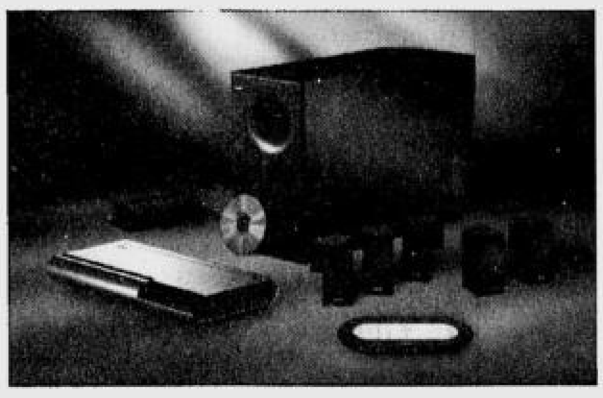
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and the Eastern sections of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI32° Lo22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 18°
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Chona Galang PDI Research/01/28/02



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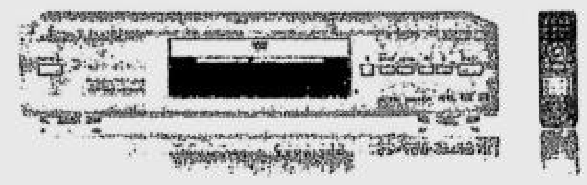

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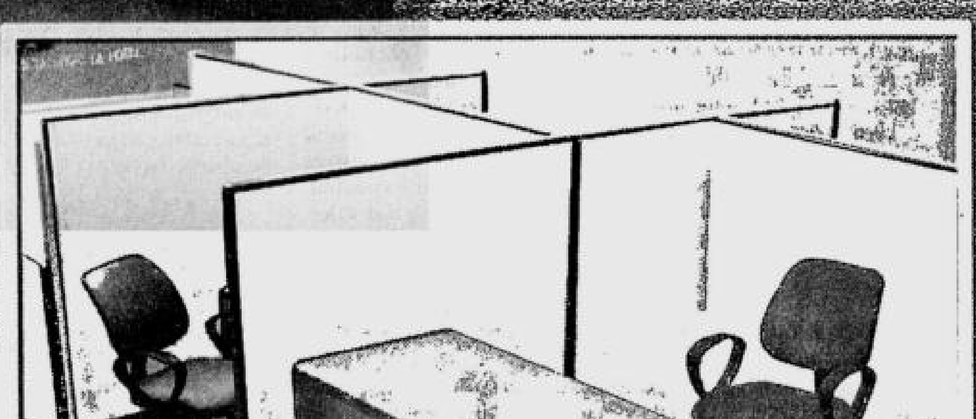

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A.M. No. 02-1-06-SC

RE: PROPOSED RULE ON SEARCH AND SEIZURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS FOR INFRINGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

RESOLUTION

Acting on the letter of the Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Rules of Court submitting for this Court's consideration and approval the Proposed Rule in Search and Seizure on Civil Actions for Infringement of Intellectual Property Rights, the Court resolved to APPROVE the same.

The Rule shall take effect on February 15, 2002 following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation on or before January 30, 2002.

January 22, 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

JOSE A.R. MELO
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Associate Justice

RULE ON SEARCH AND SEIZURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS FOR INFRINGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

SECTION 1. *Coverage.* - This Rule shall govern the provisional seizure and impounding of documents and articles in pending and intended civil actions for the purpose of preventing infringement and preserving relevant evidence in regard to alleged infringement under Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, Article 50 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, otherwise known as TRIPS and other related laws and international conventions.

SEC. 2. *The writ of search and seizure.* – Where any delay is likely to cause irreparable harm to the intellectual property right holder or where there is demonstrable risk of evidence being destroyed, the intellectual property right holder or his duly authorized representative in a pending civil action for infringement or who intends to commence such an action may apply *ex parte* for the issuance of a writ of search and seizure directing the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party to admit into his premises the persons named in the order and to allow the search, inspection, copying, photographing, audio and audiovisual recording or seizure of any document and article specified in the order.

SEC. 3. *Where application filed.* - The application shall be filed with any of the Regional Trial Courts of the judicial region designated to try violations of intellectual property rights stationed at the place where the alleged violation occurred or is to occur, or the place to be searched, at the election of the applicant. Provided, however, that where the complaint for infringement has already been filed, the application shall be made in the court where the case is pending.

SEC. 4. *Verified application and affidavits.* - The applicant shall file a verified application alleging the ground upon which it is based and the specific description and location of the documents and articles to be searched, inspected, copied or seized and their value. It shall also state the names of the applicant, his representative, witnesses and counsel who will attend the search in the event that the application is granted. The application shall be supported by affidavits of witnesses who personally know the facts and by authenticated or certified documents.

The application shall contain a certification against forum shopping as prescribed by Section 5, Rule 7 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

The applicant shall undertake in his application that he will not use any of the documents, articles or information obtained by reason of the search and seizure for any purpose other than in the action in which the writ is issued.

SEC. 5. *Examination of applicant; record; confidentiality of proceedings.* – The application shall be acted upon within twenty-four (24) hours from its filing. The judge must, before issuing the writ, examine in the form of searching questions and answers, in writing and under oath or affirmation, the applicant and the witnesses he may produce on facts personally known to them. The examination of the applicant and his witnesses shall be recorded. Their sworn statements and their affidavits shall form part of the record of the case.

The hearing on the application for the writ shall be held in the chambers of the judge. Court personnel shall maintain the confidentiality of the application proceeding.

The court may require the applicant to give other information necessary for the identification of the articles and documents to be searched, inspected, copied or seized and the premises to be searched. Where feasible, it may direct the applicant to submit copies and photographs of the documents or articles to be seized and impounded.

SEC. 6. *Grounds for the issuance of the order.* - Before the Order can be issued, the evidence proffered by the applicant and personally evaluated by the judge must show that:

(a) the applicant is the right holder or his duly authorized representative;
(b) there is probable cause to believe that the applicant's right is being infringed or that such infringement is imminent and there is a *prima facie* case for final relief against the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party;
(c) damage, potential or actual, likely to be caused to the applicant is irreparable;
(d) there is demonstrable risk of evidence that the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party may destroy, hide or remove the documents or articles before any application *inter partes* can be made; and
(e) the documents and articles to be seized constitute evidence of the alleged infringing defendant's or expected adverse party's infringing activity or that they infringe upon the intellectual property right of the applicant or that they are used or intended to be used as means of infringing the applicant's intellectual property right.

SEC. 7. *When writ may issue.* – If the judge is satisfied with the proof of facts upon which the application is based, he shall issue the writ requiring the search, inspection or copying of the subject documents or articles or commanding the sheriff to take them into his custody subject to the control of the court. The enforcement of the writ shall be supervised by an independent Commissioner to be appointed by the court.

SEC. 8. *Contents of the writ.* - The writ shall contain the following:

(a) an order to the alleged infringing defendant, expected adverse party or to the person who appears to be in charge or in control of the premises or residing or working therein to permit the persons named in the writ to enter into the premises for the purpose of searching, inspecting, copying, or removing from the premises and transferring to the custody of the sheriff and subject to the control of the court the subject documents and articles;
(b) an order to the alleged infringing defendant, expected adverse party or to the person in charge or in control of the premises to disclose to the sheriff serving the writ the location of the documents and articles subject of the writ;
(c) the period when the writ shall be enforced which in no case shall be more than ten (10) days from the date of issuance by the court;
(d) the names of the applicant or his agent or representative and the Commissioner who shall supervise the enforcement of the writ; and
(e) other terms and conditions that will insure the proper execution of the writ with due regard to the rights of the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party.

It shall also contain a warning that violation of any of the terms and conditions of the writ shall constitute contempt of court.

SEC. 9. *Bond and its conditions.* - The applicant shall be required to post a cash bond, surety bond or other equivalent security executed in favor of the defendant or expected adverse party in a reasonable amount to be fixed by the court in its order granting the issuance of a writ of search and seizure. The bond shall be conditioned on the undertaking of the applicant that he will pay all the costs which may be adjudged to defendant or expected adverse party and all damages which the latter may sustain by reason of the issuance of the writ.

SEC. 10. *When writ shall be served.* - The writ shall be served only on weekdays and from 8 o'clock in the morning to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. However, the court may direct that the writ be served on any day and any time for compelling reasons stated in the application and duly proved.

SEC. 11. *To whom writ shall be served.* – The writ shall be served on the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party in the place to be searched.

If the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party cannot be found in the premises, the writ shall be served on his agent or representative. In the absence of an agent or representative, it shall be served on the person in charge or in control of the premises, or residing or working therein who is of sufficient age and discretion. If such person is absent, the sheriff or proper officer shall post the papers on the premises and proceed with the enforcement of the writ.

SEC. 12. *Commissioner, duties, qualifications and fees.* - The enforcement of the writ shall be supervised by the independent Commissioner appointed by the court. In the performance of his duty, the Commissioner shall:

(a) give impartial advice to the alleged infringing defendant, expected adverse party or to the person in charge of the premises to be searched as to the meaning and coverage of the writ;
(b) attempt to achieve agreement on a suitable search procedure;
(c) assess what documents or articles come within the terms of the writ;
(d) ensure the accuracy of the list of documents and articles searched, inspected, copied or seized by the sheriff;
(e) prepare his own report on the search and seizure and verify and sign the return prepared by the sheriff; and
(f) generally, assist in the proper execution of the writ.

The Commissioner shall be a member of the Philippine Bar and of proven competence, integrity and probity. He shall receive such reasonable compensation as may be determined by the court which can be charged as cost of suit.

SEC. 13. *Search to be conducted in the presence of defendant, his representative, person in charge of the premises, or witnesses.* - The premises may not be searched except in the presence of the alleged infringing defendant, expected adverse party or his representative or the person in charge or in control of the premises or residing or working therein who shall be given the opportunity to read the writ before its enforcement and seek its interpretation from the Commissioner. In the absence of the latter, two persons of sufficient age and discretion residing in the same locality shall be allowed to witness the search or in the absence of the latter, two persons of sufficient age and discretion residing in the nearest locality.

SEC. 14. *Manner of search and seizure; duties of the sheriff.* – Upon service of the writ in accordance with section 11 hereof, the sheriff, under the supervision of the Commissioner, shall search for the documents and articles specified in the writ, and take them in his custody subject to the control of the court.

If the subject articles are not capable of manual delivery, the sheriff shall attach to them a tag or label stating the fact of seizure and warning all persons from tampering with them.

The sheriff shall, in the presence of the applicant or his representative, and under the supervision of the Commissioner, prepare a detailed list of the seized documents and articles. He shall give an accurate copy of the same to the alleged infringing defendant, expected adverse party, his agent or representative, to the person in charge or in control of the premises or residing or working therein in whose presence the search and seizure were made. In the absence of the person in charge or in control of the premises or residing or working therein, the sheriff must, in the presence of at least two witnesses of sufficient age and discretion residing in the same locality, leave a copy of the receipt in the place in which he found the seized property. Where no witnesses are available in the same locality, the copy of the receipt shall be left by the sheriff in the presence of two witnesses residing in the nearest locality. The applicant or his representative and the Commissioner shall also be given a copy of the receipt.

After the sheriff has taken possession of the documents and articles, he shall deliver them to a bonded warehouse or government warehouse for safekeeping. The applicant or his representative shall be allowed access to said materials for the purpose of examining them.

The applicant shall be responsible for the necessary expenses incurred in the seizure and safekeeping of the documents and articles in a bonded warehouse or government warehouse.

SEC. 15. *Use of reasonable force to effect writ.* – The sheriff, if refused admittance to the premises after giving notice of his purpose and authority or in the absence of the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party, his agent or representative, or person in charge or in control of the premises or residing or working therein who is of sufficient age and discretion, may use reasonable force to gain entry to the premises or any part of the building or anything therein, to enforce the writ or to liberate himself or any person lawfully aiding him when unlawfully detained therein.

SEC. 16. *Seizure of computer disks or other storage devices.* - The seizure of a computer disk or any storage device may be executed in any of the following manner:

(a) by the physical taking thereof;
(b) by copying its contents in a suitable device or disk provided by the applicant; or
(c) by printing out the contents of the disk or device with the use of a printer.

When the computer disks or storage devices cannot be readily removed from the computer to which they are fitted, the sheriff may take the subject computer from the custody of the alleged infringing defendant, expected adverse party or person in charge or in control of the premises or residing or working therein.

SEC. 17. *Sheriff's return.* - The sheriff who executed the writ shall, within three (3) days from its enforcement, make a verified return to the court which issued the writ. The return shall contain a full statement of the proceedings under the writ and a complete inventory of the documents and articles searched, inspected or copied or seized and impounded, with copies served on the applicant, the defendant or expected adverse party and the Commissioner.

If not all of the documents and articles enumerated in the order and writ were seized, the sheriff shall so report to the court and state the reasons therefor. All objections of the defendant, expected adverse party or person in charge of the premises on the manner and regularity of the service of the writ shall be included by the sheriff in his return.

SEC. 18. *Discharge of writ by the defendant or expected adverse party.* - Without waiting for the return to be filed by the sheriff, the defendant, expected adverse party or the party whose property has been searched, inspected, copied or seized may file a motion with the court which issued the writ for its discharge with prayer for the return of the documents and articles seized.

The writ may be discharged on any of the following grounds:

(a) that the writ was improperly or irregularly issued, or excessively enforced;
(b) that the bond is insufficient;
(c) that the safeguards provided in the writ have been violated by the applicant or the sheriff; or
(d) that the documents and articles seized are not infringing copies or means for making the materials alleged to infringe the intellectual property right of the applicant.

The writ may be discharged in a summary hearing by the court after notice to the applicant, the sheriff and the Commissioner.

If the court finds that the bond is insufficient, it shall order a new bond to be filed by the applicant within a reasonable time. The discharge of the writ based on the insufficiency of the bond may only be made if the applicant fails to post the new bond within the period fixed by the court.

SEC. 19. *Proceedings on return.* – Five (5) days after issuance of the writ, the issuing judge shall ascertain if the writ has not been served or the return has been made by the sheriff. If the writ was not served or no return was made, it shall summon the sheriff and the applicant to whom the writ was issued and require them to explain why the writ was not served or why no return has been filed as the case may be. If the return has been made, the judge shall, after notice to the applicant, the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party, the sheriff and the Commissioner, ascertain whether the provisions of this Rule and applicable laws have been complied with.

SEC. 20. *Failure to file complaint.* – The writ shall also, upon motion of the expected adverse party, be set aside and the seized documents and articles returned to the expected adverse party if no case is filed with the appropriate court or authority within thirty-one (31) calendar days from the date of issuance of the writ.

SEC. 21. *Claim for damages.* – Where the writ is discharged on any of the grounds provided in this Rule, or where it is found after trial that there has been no infringement or threat of infringement of an intellectual property right, the court, upon motion of the alleged infringing defendant or expected adverse party and after due hearing, shall order the applicant to compensate the defendant or expected adverse party upon the cash bond, surety bond or other equivalent security for any injury or damage the latter suffered by the issuance and enforcement of the writ. Should the damages exceed the amount of the bond, the applicant shall be liable for the payment of the excess.

When a complaint is already filed in court, the motion shall be filed with the same court during the trial or before appeal is perfected or before judgment becomes executory, with due notice to the applicant, setting forth the facts showing the defendant's right to damages and the amount thereof. The award of damages shall be included in the judgment in the main case.

Where no complaint is filed against the expected adverse party, the motion shall be filed with the court which issued the writ. In such a case, the court shall set the motion for summary hearing and immediately determine the expected adverse party's right to damages.

A judgment in favor of the applicant in its principal claim should not necessarily bar the alleged infringing defendant from recovering damages where he suffered losses by reason of the wrongful issuance or enforcement of the writ.

The damages provided for in this section shall be independent from the damages claimed by the defendant in his counterclaim.

SEC. 22. *Judgment.* - If it appears after trial that the seized documents and articles are found to infringe the intellectual property right of the applicant or that they constitute the means for the production of infringing goods, the court shall order their destruction or donation to charitable, educational or religious institutions with the prohibition against bringing the same into the channels of commerce. In the latter case, infringing trademarks or trade names found on labels, tags and other portions of the infringing materials shall be removed or defaced before the donation. In no case shall the infringing materials be returned to the defendant.

If the court finds no infringement, the seized materials shall be immediately returned to the defendant.

SEC. 23. *Direct filing, provisional docketing and deposit of prescribed filing fee.* - The Regional Trial Courts specially designated to try violations of intellectual property rights shall keep a distinct and separate logbook for writs of search and seizure. The application for a writ of search and seizure filed directly with the said courts shall be given a provisional docket number. The prescribed filing fee shall be deposited with the branch clerk of court and properly receipted for and transmitted to the Clerk of Court within twenty-four (24) hours from issuance of the order granting or denying the application for said writ. If a formal complaint is filed thereafter, the Clerk of Court may make a reassessment of the filing fee.

SEC. 24. *Separate logbook.* – In every court, there shall be a logbook under the custody of the Clerk of Court wherein shall be docketed and entered within twenty-four (24) hours after the issuance or denial of the writ of search and seizure, the filing of such application and other particulars thereof. All the subsequent proceedings concerning the writ of search and seizure shall be faithfully recorded in the separate logbook.

SEC. 25. *Effect of violation.* – A violation of any of the terms and conditions of the order and the writ of search and seizure or any provision of this Rule shall constitute contempt of court.

SEC. 26. *Writ not a bar to other measures.* – The availment of the writ of search and seizure under this Rule shall not prevent the applicant from resorting to other provisional measures or remedies provided in existing laws and procedural rules.

SEC. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Rule shall take effect on February 15, 2002 after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation not later than January 30, 2002.

Aquila member vows innocence in Lenny Villa death

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—For Mayor AmantPurisima II, his acquittal from the controversial Lenny Villa slay case is expected.

"I expected the decision because I am innocent," Purisima told the INQUIRER on Monday.

Purisima is one of the 19 Aquila Legis Fraternity men who were acquitted by the Court of Appeals in the fatal hazing of neophyte Villa in 1991.

"The death of Lenny Villa was an accident," Purisima said.

He downplayed reports that the acquittal was a result of the supposed influence of the Aquila members.

"If we are indeed influential, the case should have not reached this long," Purisima said.

In exonerating the 19 accused, the court said there was no evidence of conspiracy among the leaders of Aquila Legis, the Ateneo Law School fraternity, and that Villa was a "willing victim."

He said he was in their house when the fatal hazing happened.

He also claimed that it was the Villa family who used its influence to have a favorable decision on the case.

Purisima is the nephew of retired Supreme Court Justice Fidel Purisima, who was a Court of Appeals justice when the case was ongoing.

But Purisima stressed that his uncle did not lift a finger to influence the outcome of the case.

"After the incident happened, I visited him only twice in his office, and one was during his *despedida* party for his elevation to the Supreme Court," he said.

"My being a nephew (of Justice Purisima) was a liability in the case," the young Purisima added. He did not elaborate.

Purisima, despite their acquittal, believed that the Villa family would continue to use its supposed influence and resources to gain an upper hand in the case.

But he expressed full confidence in the country's criminal justice system.

Purisima said he could have easily escaped if he were indeed guilty.

"I was then in the United States when the decision from the regional trial court in Caloocan City came out, I could have easily elected to stay there since no one knew it and besides we do not have yet the extradition treaty then," he said.

"But because I am innocent and have a firm belief in our criminal justice system, I returned to the country."

He said his involvement in the case was used by his political opponent in 1998.

"During the 1998 elections, it was used by my opponent but my constituents did not believe as they rewarded me with a landslide victory. In the 2001 elections, I ran unopposed," Purisima said.

The recent ruling modified a 1993 lower court decision by setting aside the conspiracy angle in the Villa slay.

However, the appellate court upheld the conviction of two fraternity leaders and downgraded the charges against four others.

Purisima did not hide his dismay over the media's handling of the case.

"We have been portrayed by the media as spoiled brats and scions of influential families, which is not accurate," Purisima said.

"The media, in general, have been biased against us," he said.

Solon urges probe of SBMA chief, son over car 'misuse'

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Will President Macapagal-Arroyo order a stop to the practice of using government vehicles for non-official purposes?

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales believes the President should. "For good government," she said.

To fire off the campaign, Rosales last week filed House Resolution No. 353 directing the House committee on good government to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alleged misuse and damage of a government car by Antonio Jose "Tonito" Payumo, a son of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo.

The car, a 1998 Mitsubishi Pajero driven by the younger Payumo, was damaged in an accident here on Dec. 1. It is registered in the name of the SBMA chairman.

Rosales said Tonito was "under the influence of alcohol." His "negligence and criminal act of driving" injured his five companions, she added.

The SBMA chair, she said, was one of several government officials who allow their relatives to use government vehicles.

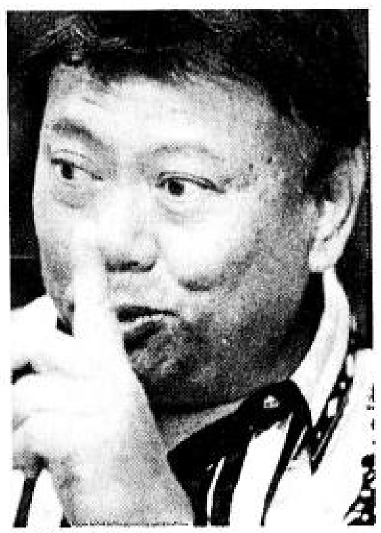
Payumo earlier expressed regrets over his son's actions but clarified that his son was not drunk while driving.

The Pajero turned turtle after Tonito avoided ramming a concrete post left by the contractor of the Argonaut Highway, Payumo said. The road was being widened and has not been cleared yet of debris at the time of the accident.

Sought on Tuesday for reactions to Rosales' resolution, Payumo has not returned a call to the INQUIRER.

Rosales said her resolution seeks to "tighten the rules or totally prevent the use of government property by private individuals for private purposes."

The copy of her resolution was sent by fax to this correspondent by an assistant of Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon, whose husband, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, is Payumo's archenemy.


PAYUMO

Rosales, in filing the resolution, clarified that she was not siding with any of the feuding officials.

She said she only wanted a stop to the malpractice in the use of government cars.

She explained that she called for the probe because the car was "nowhere to be found" and that there was "an attempt to whitewash and cover up the accident."

Payumo told the INQUIRER last December that he was paying for the vehicle's repair. That same month, he also decried the barrage of text messages on his son's supposed misuse of the car.

He traced the text campaign to the Gordon couple and their supporters.

In her resolution, Rosales said it was "imperative to compel the SBMA and its leadership to produce the vehicle immediately, to subpoena all records evidencing the accident and the injuries suffered by (its) passengers."

These actions, according to her, would "prevent such a cover-up and in order to assess the possible criminal, civil and administrative penalties that SBMA Chairman Payumo and his son . . . may face for the illegal use of the official SBMA vehicle."

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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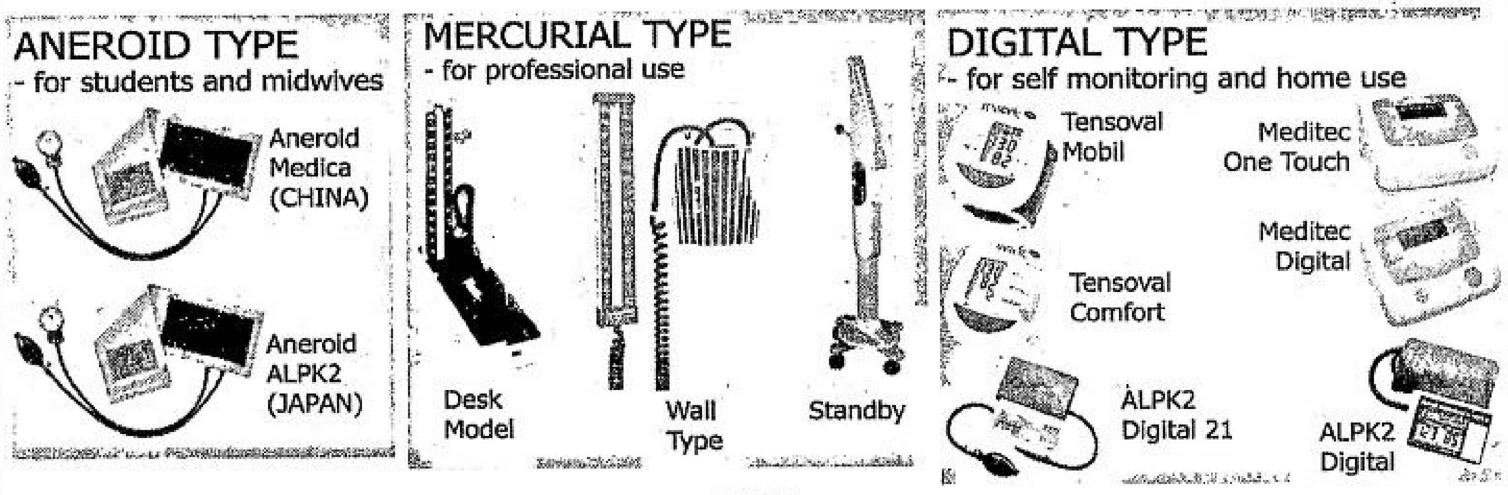

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50%	497,000	43,388	29,954	23,851	17,052	13,815	12,093

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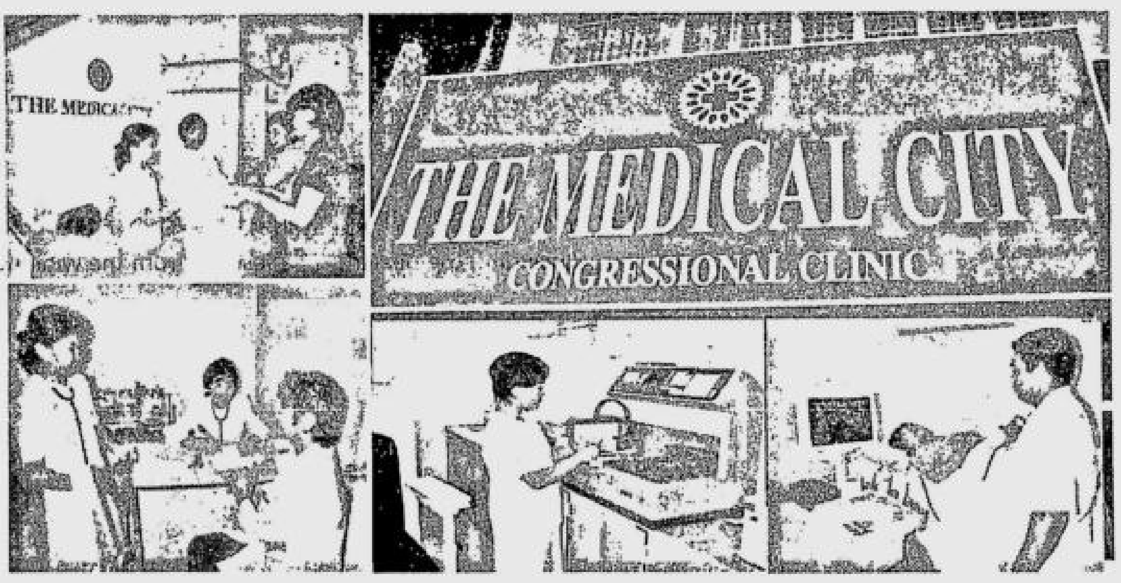

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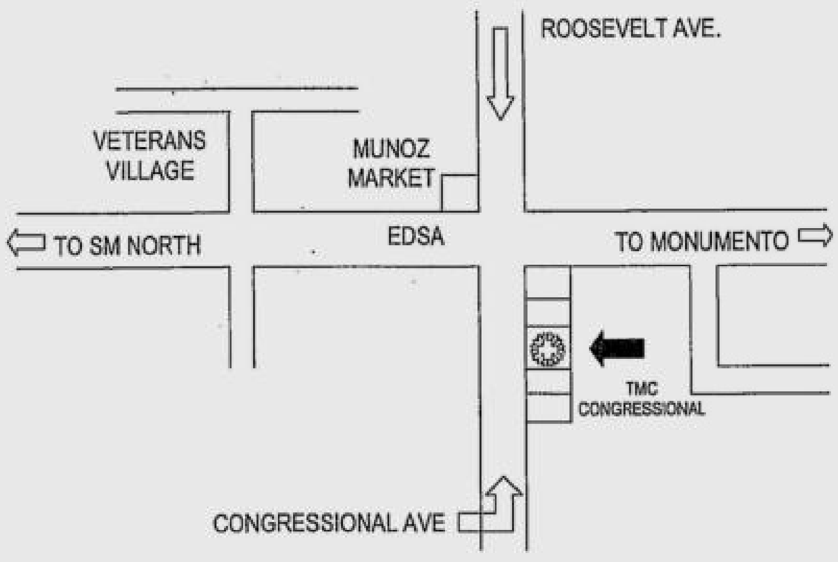

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Alvarez reshuffling dismays DENR employees

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two of the six Central Luzon officials reassigned by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to agrarian and logging hot spots in the region have pending administrative cases related to alleged land scams.

Demoralized employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office here last week alerted the INQUIRER on the appointment of Francisco de Lara and Jaime Centeno as officers-in-charge of the DENR offices in Zambales and Bataan, respectively.

Their reassignments were made effective Jan. 14 through the secretary's special order. On the same day, however, DENR Regional Executive Director Gregorio Nisperos certified that the two were among 26 DENR regional employees who had been charged with grave misconduct, dishonesty, gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

In a memorandum to the assistant director for administrative services, Nisperos also certified that the charges against De Lara and Centeno had been forwarded to the central office for formal investigation.

Centeno, as community environment and natural resources officer of Olongapo City, was charged with illegally issuing free patents covering 402 hectares of timberland or facilitating the sale of portions of these lands since 1995.

De Lara, chief of the Cenro-Olongapo land management section, was charged as an accomplice in two of the four cases involving Centeno.

Centeno, speaking to the INQUIRER by phone from Antipolo City, however, said he has "come clean."

The Office of the Ombudsman, according to him, dismissed a graft case against him for alleged land scams in Olongapo.

The DENR central office, he added, has yet to begin formal investigation of the city's supposed land scams that have been uncovered since 1999.

Centeno blamed "politics within the DENR" for the protests over his reassignment to Bataan.

He identified at least two persons responsible for his floating status in the last three years but requested the INQUIRER not to publish their names.

The charges came on the heels of the anti-land scam campaign began by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles.

After their suspension for 90 days in 1999, De Lara got back his post while Centeno was assigned to the regional office.

Explaining the reassignment of the two and four other officials, Alvarez said this was "in the interest of the service and to improve (the) delivery of frontline service."

Speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, the employees said Alvarez was "ill-advised."

"Those suspected of committing wrongdoings are being rewarded with higher posts and those who have been trying their best to do their duties are being punished," an employee told the INQUIRER.

In the order, Armando Preclaro, assistant regional executive director for legal services in Southern Luzon, was reassigned to the same post in Central Luzon. Genaro Oris, Zambales Penro, replaced Preclaro.

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Planned nickel plant in Palawan under fire

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The proposed $150-million nickel refinery complex in Bataraza town, Palawan came under attack from environmental groups yesterday even as it failed in the technical evaluation of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

The technical report came out weeks after the PCSD, an administrative body regulating environmental projects in the province, endorsed the project's environmental compliance certificate.

The Palawan Non-Government Organizations Network Inc. (PNGONI) decried the decision of the board in the absence of the report.

In spite of studies that found adverse effects of the project, PCSD executive director Joselito Alisuag gave assurance that measures would be installed to protect the environment and the people living in and near the site.

Ninety percent of the funding for the refinery complex is shouldered by Japan's mining giant Sumitomo Metal Mining Corp. and the remainder by Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC), a company owned by brothers Ronaldo and Manuel Zamora.

Ossie Bernardino, PNGONI executive director, said the refinery plant would extract 10,000 tons of nickel and 750 tons of cobalt-mixed sulfide.

The proposed 20-year production is supposed to start this year and its operations will escalate during the next years.

Alisuag admitted that if the basis for approval of the project were the technical evaluation, it would not qualify.

But he insisted that the council approved it because it passed the zoning for environmentally critical areas network (ECAN) and it was socially acceptable.

ECAN zoning is one of the components of Strategic Environmental Plan, a special environmental law that governs Palawan.

However, a big part of the project is within the core zone, an area where no activity is allowed, the report said.

Among these are the shoreline that will be used for the plant's facilities and the 20-hectare limestone quarry site. It was found that the area has a coral reef, which can be converted into a marine coastal core zone.

Experts who studied the environmental impact statement of RTNMC were also apprehensive because certain details about the project were missing

RTNMC also did not adequately answer the questions on how to prevent the leak of sulfur and other dangerous effluents from the plant.

The evaluators said the plant would pose serious danger with its use of toxic chemicals, like methanol, hydrogen sulfide and sulfuric acid.

Alisuag, however, said the council's decision was worth the risk. ***Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Another agri firm plans Bt-corn tests in Isabela

ECHAGUE, Isabela—Despite opposition to genetically modified crops in the province, another agricultural firm has started talking to officials and farmers in Benito Soliven and Echague towns for possible field trials of *Bacillus thuringiensis*-injected corn there.

Councilor Camilo Calimag, Echague barangay league president, said local leaders and farmers in the town supported the firm, Pioneer Hybrid Seeds Inc., in its Bt-corn test plans.

The firm, owned by the United States-based Dupont International, is also seeking to conduct Bt-corn trials at Barangay Yeban Sur in Benito Soliven.

Calimag said Pioneer officials had met with Echague village officials recently to discuss and win over support for the proposed field trials.

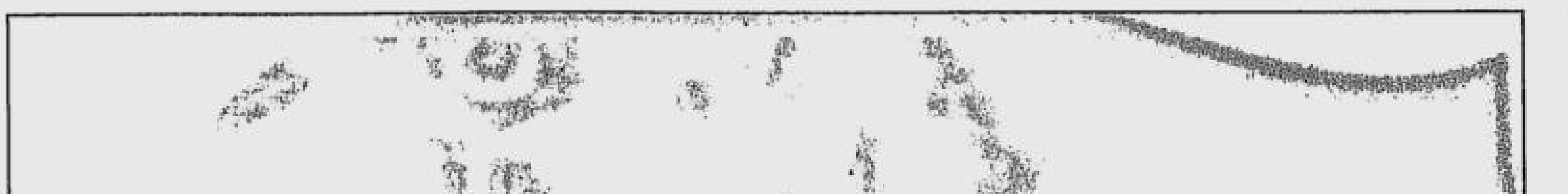
The field trials conducted by the firm Monsanto-Philippines in Isabela are covered by permits from the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines.

However, the Ilagan municipal council has imposed a moratorium on the tests in the town.

Church and farmers' groups are also opposing the Bt-corn field trials.

Echague Mayor Leoncio Kiat said he was not inclined to endorse the tests to be conducted by Pioneer.

"I told (village leaders) that we should not bear another problem while we are dealing with a current one. Monsanto is conducting field tests in Barangay Carulay and here comes Pioneer. So I told them, 'Enough, let us stop (future trials),'" he said. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002

Palace tells US foes: Let SC settle issue

From page A1

the bounds of the Constitution," the President told Bombo Radyo hours before she left for London last night.

She cited a similar opinion given by Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, a lawyer and expert on the Constitution.

Bernas had said the joint military exercises were allowed under the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty because the Philippines could be considered under "armed attack" from the Abu Sayyaf "terrorists."

'Legal' but stupid

But Bernas added that "an act can be perfectly legal but unwise or even stupid."

Ms Macapagal reiterated her stand on the joint military exercises a day after the Inquirer reported that administration Sen. Joker Arroyo had found her "cavalier" stance on US presence in Basilan "just too much."

Arroyo was reacting to the President's statement last Friday that the Constitution allowed the deployment of US troops in the battlefield but that she did not allow this as a matter of policy.

The senator said Ms Macapagal "could change her mind and unleash the US troops (against the Abu Sayyaf bandits) because she believes she has the constitutional mandate" to do so.

Tiglao dismissed Arroyo's fears. "(Her policy) won't change," he said.

He downplayed the President's statement that the Constitution would have allowed it if she decided to let Americans fight the Abu Sayyaf.

"The President was emphasizing that it is moot and academic to discuss whether the (US) troops will undertake combat action because she has made a policy in the first place that (US) combat troops are not allowed," Tiglao said.

But he said "legal scholars" like Bernas were of the opinion that having US combat troops here was legal.

Tiglao said Malacañang was respecting the contrary views of former administration allies.

But he said these former allies did not present the issues clearly, referring to Wigberto Tañada Jr., a former senator and congressman.

"I respect Congressman Bobby Tañada a lot. But I think his arguments are not clear . . . The bottom line is they have little trust in the government," Tiglao said.

"I don't think anybody can claim to have a monopoly on nationalism," he added.

Tañada, head of a new group called the "Gathering for Peace," said the deployment of US troops in Mindanao to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf was a violation of the Constitution.

The Gathering for Peace is a coalition of nationalist groups opposed to US military presence in the country.

Militant groups have been staging street protests over the US deployments. Some of the protests have been directed at the US Embassy, where attempts to deface the crest outside the mission have led to scuffles with riot police.

Amid the growing opposition to the deployment of US troops in Mindanao, the President said her critics were in the minority.

Few object

"Only a few object, especially the communists. But the majority of the people approve," Ms Macapagal said.

Even the Muslim-populated communities in Mindanao, such as the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Basilan, "welcome" the US presence as "they hope for deliverance" from the bandits, Ms Macapagal noted.

Like the President, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez denied any mounting protest against the presence of US troops in the country.

In a statement to defense reporters, Golez said "they are basically the same groups that opposed the VFA in 1999. So most of the issues (being raised have) already been resolved by the 2000 Supreme Court decision," he said, referring to the Gathering for Peace.

He said the Supreme Court already resolved the legality of the VFA in a decision on Oct. 10, 2000. The Supreme Court said that the President had the power to enter into an international agreement, subject only to the concurrence of the Senate.

The VFA was questioned by militant groups, which contended that it was a formal treaty that needed to be ratified by the Senate.

Golez said the coalition's position was basically based on an anti-US ideology.

He maintained that he respected the group's position which, he said, was necessary in a democratic society.

"But they must also respect the overwhelming 90-percent public approval (for the presence of US troops). The stock market went up after a favorable NSC (National Security Council) meeting and Senate hearing. We must unite now against the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

He did not mention the basis for his contention that there was overwhelming public support.

Welcome

In Bacolod City, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday claimed that the people in Mindanao were in favor of the arrival of US soldiers in Basilan.

Pimentel told the Inquirer that the people in Mindanao were "happy with the presence of the US soldiers" unlike those in Manila and in Cebu where rallies were staged against the arrival.

"We should welcome the US troops in Mindanao provided they do not go into combat operations," the senator, a native of Cagayan de Oro City, said.

"We have to remember that we were the ones who invited the Americans to help train Filipino soldiers, upgrade their equipment and to share in intelligence gathering," he said. ***With reports from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, and AFP***

Militants accept Malacañang challenge

From page A1

tution, which prohibits foreign military bases, troops and facilities on Philippine territory, and even the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), particularly certain limits on unilateral acts of US troops.

The Junk VFA Movement urged Sen. Joker Arroyo to lead the legal challenge to Balikatan.

"The public would be served well if Senator Arroyo would help clarify the true nature, intent, scope, duration and constitutional basis of the intervention of US forces as approved by the President," said retired Navy Capt. Dan Vizmanos, spokesperson of the Junk VFA Movement.

Arroyo has lashed out at President Macapagal-Arrroyo for her stance on the deployment of US soldiers in Mindanao.

Lawyer JV Bautista, head of the PeaceCamp legal team, said his group was set to file a petition for certiorari within the week.

"As the Philippine government tries to lay the legal grounds to justify the scheduled Balikatan 02-1 joint US-RP military exercises . . . , we cannot help but test the legality and constitutionality of their deployment in our country," PeaceCamp said in a statement.

The group claimed that there was no provision in the VFA that justified the presence of American troops on Philippine soil, as the agreement covered only "the conduct of US forces while engaged in military exercises."

"What (the VFA) provides for is a regulatory mechanism governing the visits of military personnel. (It only) defines the rights of the United States and the Philippine governments in the matter of jurisdiction, the entry and departure of US personnel, as well as the movement of vessels and aircraft," PeaceCamp said.

It added that even the VFA could not be considered a treaty between the two countries, even if it was supposed to have taken effect on June 1,1999.

The group said that while the Philippine Senate ratified the VFA, its US counterpart had failed to do so, making the agreement an insufficient justification for the deployment of foreign troops in the country.

"Hence, we now highly suspect that the Mutual Logistic Support Agreement (MLSA), which is still in the drawing boards, would logically be the last line of defense the Macapagal administration would bring about," PeaceCamp said.

But lawyer Argee Guevarra, also a member of the PeaceCamp legal team, said the MLSA itself was "highly questionable."

Guevarra pointed to a recent government move to revert the MLSA from being an "agreement" into an "arrangement."

"By doing this, the MLSA would not necessitate the concurrence of the respective Senates of the US and the Philippines," Guevarra said.

Instead, the pact could be sealed with only the approval of the Armed Forces chief of staff of the Philippines and his American counterpart, the commander in chief of the Pacific Command, he said.

"Clearly, this joint military exercise and the MLSA are but a prelude to the reestablishing of an American foothold in the country. The administration is clearly paving the way for Uncle Sam's return, a betrayal of the people's victory of rejecting the US bases in 1991," PeaceCamp said.

Read Charter first

A militant peasant group urged the President to read the Constitution first as it criticized her assurance that US troops taking part in the joint RP-US war games would be under the AFP command.

"We advise Ms Macapagal to read the Constitution she vowed to defend and has openly violated," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan called presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao arrogant after the official accused Sison of instigating the growing opposition to the joint military exercises.

"Tiglao has resorted to cheap shots and sheer arrogance in addressing the people's clamor to stop US intervention," said Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr.

"It seems Tiglao . . . (is) vying to be the next White House spokesperson since he defends US interests so well," Reyes said.

The statement came after Tiglao reportedly claimed that Sison, the exiled communist leader, was using "front organizations" to lead the protest against the war games and to provoke violent confrontations with police.

"Instead of facing the legal and political issues and consequences of the military exercises, Malacañang is using the worn-out anti-communist hysteria to discredit legitimate opposition to US intervention," Reyes said.

Bayan has vowed to continue holding protest actions until the government ordered the pullout of US troops from Basilan.

In Cebu, barricades were removed near the gate of the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base on Saturday, a day after a scuffle ensued between Air Force personnel and about 100 members of militant groups.

Capt. Enrico Canaya, spokesperson of the Tactical Operations Command of the Philippine Air Force, said air base officials also decided not to deploy troops outside the base during rallies of militant groups.

"We don't want to make it appear that we are driving them away from the air base," he said.

Paul Rodriguez, chair of Bayan in Central Visayas, said his group would launch more protests this week. ***With reports from Christian V. Esguerra in Manila, and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Tito gets personal on Bobby's 'meddling'

From page A1

Secretary Roberto "Bobby" Romulo in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo recently.

Romulo reportedly replied: "Tito, I will not do that to you."

Guingona was drawing a parallel between the situation of Romulo's eminent father, Carlos P. Romulo, who contended with the powerful brother of then First Lady Imelda Marcos, and his own, where Romulo is widely regarded in political and diplomatic circles as de facto head of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The official said that even before the issue of the US troops came to a head, Guingona had told other officials: "I am the DFA secretary, but the one running the show is Bobby Romulo."

The official said that if Guingona had resigned over the issue, Romulo would have been his instant replacement.

"Because he's pro-US," the official said.

But Romulo categorically denied that he was running the DFA show, or that he wanted to be foreign secretary again.

"No. I'm not interested to be DFA secretary. Never again," Romulo told the Inquirer.

The official, a reliable source who requested that his name not be used for obvious reasons, said Romulo's meddling in the DFA was "probably the principal reason why he (Guingona) wanted to resign."

"On the other hand, that (the prospect of Romulo replacing him) probably made him stay," the official said.

Another senior government official told the Inquirer separately that Romulo was the de facto head of the DFA, and that he had a hand in drafting the controversial Mutual Logistics Support Agreement.

The second official said Romulo, who wields influence on foreign policy matters, recommends nine out of every 10 ambassadors. Romulo is known as the "Sikatuna" head of the DFA, the official added, and that a number of DFA undersecretaries, senior officials and ambassadors are "reporting to Sikatuna instead of the 11th floor," referring to Guingona's office in the DFA building on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

"Sikatuna" refers to the country's highest diplomatic award, which was conferred on Romulo for his excellent service during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos.

Ramos later fired Romulo and then Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor, however, over the execution of Filipino maid Flor Contemplacion in Singapore.

The second official said Romulo was directing the DFA from his private office in Makati. Romulo, who manages the Philippine Foundation for Global Concerns, holds office at the Philamlife Towers in Paseo de Roxas.

Categorical denial

Romulo, who is also presidential adviser on international competitiveness, initially declined to be interviewed. He was busy preparing to join the President on her swing to London, New York and Canada, his assistant Yenny Gonzales said.

But he eventually agreed to the interview, to categorically deny all allegations against him.

Romulo flatly denied that he had a hand in the drafting of the controversial MLSA. "I have nothing to do with the MLAT or whatever they call it (now)," said Romulo, referring to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, as it was called during Ramos' time.

Romulo admitted hearing about the so-called Sikatuna group but denied there was anything to it.

The second Inquirer source said Sikatuna referred to Romulo's "private office" where he confers with the supposed members: presidential adviser on regional concerns Paul Dominguez and his brother-in-law Tomas Alcantara, former Ambassador to the United States Raul Rabe and Tony Basilio.

"Yes, I've read about it in the papers. No, that's not true," said Romulo.

It is also "not true" that he beats Guingona 9-1 in the appointment of ambassadors, Romulo said.

"I don't meddle in the DFA," he said.

Romulo also said that contrary to rumors, Undersecretary Lauro Baja and other senior DFA officials did not report to him.

But he admitted this much: "People come here to gossip but that's all. I don't meddle."

Romulo explained how he came back into the foreign affairs picture.

'Before the Vice President took over, the President asked me in many instances to help. I helped orchestrate the visit to Washington . . . (but I have nothing to do) with the appointments."

Shortly after Ms Macapagal was installed President on Jan. 20, she appointed Romulo as adviser on international competitiveness—a wide-ranging portfolio which covers foreign affairs, international finance, trade and investment and information technology.

The senior official said the "Sikatuna operations" were hurting Guingona.

"Masama ang loob ni Vice President Guingona," the official said.

The official said Romulo lobbied to become the DFA secretary when Ms Macapagal became President.

Guingona, the official added, found the DFA like an "old boy's club" where he was not accepted.

"Romulo has the name and reputation and he is deeply rooted in the DFA, but Guingona is seen as being political. That's because he is really a politician but he is a nationalist," the official said.

MLSA draft

The senior official, who also requested that his name not be used, said Romulo's group had a hand in drafting the MLSA. The official said Malacañang's explanations that the MLSA was not a done deal were mere excuses.

"It was the Sikatuna group which started this draft, worked it out with the defense officials. There was a lot of effort to hide it from the DFA and Congress," the official said.

The official said the Romulo group was with the President on a private plane which took her to some of her destinations during her working visit to the United States last November last year.

The plane, the official said, was "loaned" to the President by a Middle Eastern country seeking to invest in Philippine Airlines operations. The arrangement was handled by Alcantara, a former trade undersecretary.

"The usual companions (of the President) on this plane were these people. And the suspicion is it was during this trip when they discussed how to work out (the MLSA)," the official said.

The official added that in the White House meeting attended by their respective Cabinet officials, Ms Macapagal told US President George W. Bush that she did not need US soldiers to support the anti-terrorism campaign in the country.

But the official said the two Presidents had a private discussion afterward.

The source also said the Sikatuna group worked on the draft MLSA with the help of a "core group" in the Department of National Defense.

"But they know they could not manipulate Guingona or they would get a watered-down agreement," the official said.

But Romulo denied this, too.

"I categorically deny being involved in it. I have never discussed it. It had never been discussed with me. I have not been asked by the President about it," Romulo said.

He admitted he was with the President's contingent during her call on Bush, but denied he was in a private plane where the MLSA was discussed.

According to Romulo, he takes commercial flights—at his own expense—when he travels.

He admitted that some of the alleged Sikatuna members were his friends.

"We do work together but not about the DFA." Basilio is his chief operating officer at the PFGC.

The second source noted that Romulo's executive assistant was Luli Arroyo, the President's only daughter.

The official said it was actually Romulo who advised the President not to sign the young Arroyo's appointment papers as a qualified foreign service officer early in her term.

Romulo admitted that Luli worked as the operations director of the PFGC, specifically in the project to donate computers to public schools.

But he said Luli had been working with him since 1995.

Romulo, who praised Guingona for his statesmanship over the US troops issue, said he felt helpless about persistent talk about his influence in the DFA.

"I'm afraid my influence is with the President, and that is when she asks me to help. But I'm not at all interested in (Guingona's) job. Young people should be given the chance," he added.

Be like Tolkien's Frodo, Davide urges lawyers

From page A1

Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said they could be like the "hobbit-hero Frodo Baggins, who, despite being vertically challenged, proved to be the heart and soul of the fellowship that conquered the mighty Sauron, the evil lord of Mordor."

Baggins, a three-foot-tall hairy hobbit, is the main character in the screen adaptation of the first of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic trilogy on an epic adventure of good against evil.

"The evil that we, as members of the Bar and officers of the court, seek to vanquish is injustice. We have our oaths and we know our obligations and responsibilities. There is no reason at all why we cannot be champions of justice in and outside of the court," said Davide.

The Chief Justice was keynote speaker of the Third Regional Convention of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines here on Thursday.

"By becoming champions of justice, we become champions of peace," said Davide, who was lauded for his sterling leadership as Presiding Justice during the impeachment trial of Estrada.

"How beautiful would our country be if it would be a haven of freedom, justice and peace," he said.

Davide pointed out the crucial role of lawyers despite being a small group.

"It (legal profession) is a very small circle of friends even without the annual addition of successful Bar examinees; yet, it has the ability and the capacity to affect the course of our nation and our history."

Davide was named the Inquirer Filipino of the Year for 2000. He earned the same citation last year, together with the other members of the Supreme Court, for serving as the "anchor of the reestablishment of stability and respect for damaged institutions at a time when Philippine democracy was being rocked by populist upheavals."

Since his appointment as Chief Justice on Nov. 30, 1998, Davide said he has adopted a pro-active policy in addressing various concerns of the judiciary related to the "exacting demands of justice and the interest of the people."

Under the Action Program for Judicial Reform for 2001-06, which was approved by the high court en banc, Davide said projects had been lined up focusing on decongestion and delay, reduction of cases, setting of administrative structures linked with state-of-the-art information and communication technologies, human resources development and advocating full fiscal and administrative autonomy.

He appealed for the support and cooperation for these projects from lawyers "as officers of the court and champions of justice and apostles of peace."

Reminding lawyers that the "destiny of a great lawyer is public service," he urged delegates to "answer the call of public service" and join the judiciary.

"We have many vacant judicial posts. Compensation may not be adequate if you compare it against income from the private practice of law. Yet the fulfillment is much greater in public service," Davide said.

Davide, a former delegate of Cebu's fourth district to the Constitutional Convention in 1971 and former assemblyman of Cebu in the Interim Batasang Pambansa, cited as examples Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas and Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas, both lawyers who were also guests during the ceremonies.

"But I encourage more of you to be in the judiciary, not in politics," Davide added, eliciting applause and laughter from the delegates.

The problem with Gloria ...

From page A1

government.

While Time echoes the criticism (from the Makati business community) that she is an "unimaginative manager" and a "dull academic," the foreign press concedes that she is running the country more competently than deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Time also notes the criticism, clearly taken from domestic press reports, that Ms Macapagal is already campaigning for 2004, a criticism coming from Estrada, the opposition and her alienated supporters in the Estrada-resign coalition in late 2001.

According to Time, Ms Macapagal is perceived to be "distant" and "combative." At the same time, it acknowledges that she is a workaholic, and "relies on a formula—intelligence, hard work, attention to details."

Asked by Time whether she deserved the tag "Iron Lady," she replied: "I am a pretty tough person. I believe, though, that if I had not been so tough in a harsh external environment and a harsh environment that I inherited politically, this administration would have been overwhelmed."

On the whole, the Time article is fair and balanced. It reports that with coup rumors swirling (they were deflated when the government passed its first anniversary on Jan. 21 without disturbances) and with the deployment of American troops for a joint military exercise in Mindanao, her "toughest days lie ahead."

The war games in Basilan have become the new lightning rod of her adversaries that now include the Left, nationalists, disgruntled allies left out in the distribution of rewards, and the opposition composed of former Estrada allies.

More optimistic

The international business community is more optimistic—albeit qualified—about the rebound of the economy in 2002.

In its Asia-Pacific Economic Analysis report for January, Goldman Sachs sees "improved prospects" for the economy in 2002 and projects a gross domestic product growth of 2.5 percent, higher than its 2-percent forecast in 2001.

This forecast is lower than the more optimistic government forecast of 4-4.5 percent GDP for this year, exceeding the 3.3-percent forecast for last year.

Goldman Sachs' forecast reflects the buoyancy of the Makati Business Club survey that shows its members expect the economy to perform better this year.

The Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also indicated that its members were planning to invest more money into the domestic economy.

The business community's bullishness contradicts the perception among its more articulate members, notably Raul Concepcion of the Federation of Filipino Industries. Concepcion has criticized the President's management style as too cold and lacking in "charisma."

Amid growing criticism at home, the President is traveling for eight days to Britain, Canada and New York where she is to attend the annual conference of the World Economic Forum.

Her constituency in these places does not seem to find non-charismatic management and leadership a fault.

But this constituency does not vote Philippine presidents to office and it, therefore, gives her only cold comfort, given that the problems of holding the center and surviving the next two years are mounting.

Management style

Businessmen and the President's critics make much of her short fuse and impersonal management style. This attitude reflects the ambivalence of Filipino political and economic culture.

On one hand, they want strong government that is in control; on the other, they are offended by impersonal management driven by results, rather than by *"cariño."*

The businessmen and the rest of us better make up our minds on whether we want results achieved through impersonal style or we want charisma.

Charisma is even a misleading word. What they call charisma is really show biz appeal. We elected a show biz celebrity in 1998 and we got political disaster in exchange.

In Weberian terms, power itself cloaks its holder with charisma. That's why despite her diminutive size, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo occupies a presence out of proportion to her size and people collect around her.

No matter how magnetic a person is, if he/she is out of power, he/she is ignored.

When the businessmen talk about charisma, they are thinking of something else—an alloy of Filipino paternalism and impersonal efficiency. Unfortunately, the two elements don't mix.

The problem with Ms Macapagal is that she is not tough enough.

Lee Kuan Yew was rough in politics and he delivered results. Margaret Thatcher, in a more democratic environment, was tough, enabling her to push tough economic reforms as well as win the Falklands War.

Politics and results are not for wimps.

Even in a democracy, leaders don't have to be nice. They should be tough, and they should have vision, will and capacity to take bold risks to deliver results.

Staunch Ally snares Cup

By Edwin Villanueva

PUYAT

FROM Australia to the Philippines.

Only a few days after one of his horses won Down Under, sportsman Putch Puyat extended his luck here when his galloper Staunch Ally won the featured Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. Cup of the Marho Founders' Race yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Handled strongly by Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr., Staunch Ally burst to the lead nearing the home turn and turned back the challenge of arch rival Lyonnais down the stretch to prevail by two lenghts.

A filly named Apo Quality triumphed in a Sydney race last Thursday (Jan. 24), giving Puyat his very first win in Australia.

"*Sana huwag maubusan ng swerte* (I hope my luck doesn't run out)," said Puyat, the Marho president who got P300,000 for the Gut Feel colt's victory.

A seven-year-old horse named The Mailman (under Hermie Dilema) triumphed after Staunch Ally and made it a Puyat-Puyat double (Races 8-9).

Lyonnais took dead aim on Staunch Ally when they straightened for home but the 58-kilo top weight (Staunch Ally carried only 53 kilos) told heavily on him.

Staunch Ally, trained by Johnny Sordan, negotiated the 1,600-meter event in 1:42.4 (24.5-25-25-28).

Henry Cojuangco, representing his brother, and Sandy Javier awarded the Danding Cup to Puyat.

Rudy Mendoza's Our Hope shared the day's spotlight by topping the Sammy Sharruf Cup in wire-to-wire style.

CASTAÑO CUP

Angel "Jun" Castaño, Jr. (right) awards the Angel Castaño Sr. Memorial Cup to Vince Trinidad, brother of Albert Trinidad, following the victory of Imperial Passion in Saturday's Marho Founders' race at the Santa Ana Park.

Corteza subdues Kiamco for crown

LEE Van Corteza rallied to edge Warren Kiamco, 13-11, to capture the first Barcelona Brandy 9-ball Battle of Gold Medalist title yesterday at the Robinson's Place in Ermita.

Corteza, a native of Davao City, trailed 2-8 in the early going with Kiamco picking up the lucky breaks in the event telecast live over National Broadcasting Network.

But Corteza came back briskly to pocket 10 of the next 11 racks and take the upper hand, 12-9.

Kiamco, the 2001 SEA Games 15-ball rotation gold medalist, took the 22nd rack. But with pressure mounting, things didn't turn out well in the ensuing play as he scratched the cue ball in the next round, leading to his downfall.

Corteza was mobbed by fans shortly after receiving the P100,000 check from NBN chairperson Mia Concio, NBN general manager Joey Isabelo and Barcelona Brandy de España model Eddie Garica.

The classic two-and-a-half hour battle proved to be a smashing success as the crowd refused to leave their seats at the makeshift stage. Others simply watched fromt the next three floors of the shopping mall. Kiamco settled for the P50,000 runner-up prize.

Time-tested tandems join Mango tee tourney

TIME-TESTED partnerships and family combinations will be in focus when the 18th edition of the Mango Tee sponsored by Smart Communications blasts off this week at the exclusive Alabang Country Club course inside the millionaire's Ayala-Alabang village. Among the notable partnerships are ACCI treasurer Joey and Ricky Laurel, Gilbert Martires with Toto Velez, ACCI past president Mike Osmeña with Frexy Aguilar, Rolando Carlos-Simon Sawit and Rene Garovillo with Apo Hiking Society member/brother Buboy.

Babes Guilatco is paired with Jacky Arellano, Jerry Stehmeier plays alongside Nonoy Tirol, Vic Alimurong teams up with Jose Crisostomo, JV Velasquez signed up with Spirit of 67 member Johnny Velasquez, Luis Cantada has Luis Gamboa and Ramon Mojica gets to play with Dicky Dizon.

The tourney blasts off Feb. 7, Thursday with the first batch of the more than 200 two-man teams teeing off. Teams will have to play 36 holes over a four-day span with the event to be capped by the awards ceremonies on Sunday.

Mitsubishi Lancer GSR with Invecs Sports Mode automatic and Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport Bas are at stake as hole-in-one-prizes with another P700,000 worth of prizes to be given away as tournament and raffle prizes.

The sponsors are Taylor Made, Lancel's French leather, So Natural, Shell, The Pearl Manila, Auto Magic, Outback Steakhouse, FedEx, Malayan Insurance, Bangko Sentral, GG&A, Green Cross, Cocolife/Direct Link, Jomon Carpet, Citra Tollways, Friends of Mango Tee, Supreme Construction, Nestle, The Turf Co., Golforce, Joseph Rice Mill, Directories Phils. YKK Zipper Phils., Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance, Sharexchange Brokers, Hadji Andi Tabusalla, Acro Industrial, Security Bank/Diners Club, Standard Chartered, Golfers Clubshares, T&C Construction, Maisog Eng'g and Mori-Mori Restaurant.

NBA results

Miami 90, New Jersey 77; New York 129, Milwaukee 127, 2OT; Sacramento 114, Utah 90; Minnesota 103, Atlanta 80; Boston 108, Cleveland 101; Seattle 95, Indiana 86; Washington 112, Phoenix 102; Houston 111, Charlotte 104, OT; Chicago 95, Memphis 92; San Antonio 90, Golden State 82; Dallas 133, L.A. Clippers 112. AP

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4298 Series of 2001

Johansson spoils Safin's birthday

JOHANSSON

MELBOURNE—After one of his earlier victories, Thomas Johansson described himself as uninteresting.

When he finally reached a Grand Slam final, on his 25th try, he was dazzling.

Johansson used heavy serves and combinations of top spins, slices, flat drives and lethal drop shots to break down Marat Safin's power game Sunday, winning the Australian Open final 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

The low point of Safin's bad day on his 22nd birthday came in the final tiebreaker, when Johansson slugged a backhand crosscourt passing shot that left him sprawling, and trailing 4-0.

Safin caught up from 1-6 to 4-6 and then drew Johansson in with a drop shot—but then lobbed long, giving the 16th-seeded Swede the 1 million Australian dollars (US$520,000) winner's check.

Johansson acknowledged one problem on his way to victory.

"I was close to missing the match because my coach forgot to call a car. We had to get a taxi," he told the crowd of about 15,000 at the end.

Publicly wishing Safin a happy birthday, he added: "He's turning 22 and I'm 27. I'm almost over the hill. I feel old here."

"I was lucky to win today," Johansson added.

Safin, who already had one Grand Slam title from his victory over Peete Sampras at the 2000 US Open, told Johansson it was important to "enjoy it as much as you can." **AP**

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	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810			
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 565	Daily	1000	1110			
	5J - 567	Daily	1200	1310			
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 571	Daily	1600	1710			
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 963	Daily	1020	1200			
	5J - 965	Daily	1310	1450			
	5J - 967	Daily	1510	1650			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381*	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 383	Daily	0950	1115			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320			
ILOILO	5J - 451*	Daily	0530	0630	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055			
	5J - 459	Daily	1600	1700			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	0610	0710	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 475.	Daily	1000	1100			
	5J - 479	Daily	1640	1740			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0620	0750	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
ROXAS	5J - 373*	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979	P1,649
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

* Flight Schedule Effective 29 January 2002

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0400	0510	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1200	1310			
	5J - 568	Daily	1600	1710			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1800	1910			
	5J - 574	Daily	1900	2010			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0855	0945	P2,339	P2,039	P1,649
	5J - 597	Daily	1350	1440			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	W/Th/Sat	1005	1100	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
ILOILO	5J - 162	Daily	0750	0825			P1,399
	5J - 164	Daily	1650	1725	P1,799	P1,599	
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/W/Th/Sat	1150	1220	P1,599	P1,399	P1,199
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	1150	1310	P2,995	P2,669	P2,399

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 966	Daily	1530	1710			
	5J - 968	Daily	1730	1910			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	1025	1115	P2,339	P2,039	P1,649
	5J - 598	Daily	1520	1610			
ILOILO —via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	1520	1725	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/Tu/F/Sun	1010	1110	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 452	Daily	0900	1000			
	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 460	Daily	1805	1905			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0740	0815	P1,799	P1,599	P1,399
	5J - 165	Daily	1740	1815			
DAVAO —via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	0740	0945	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0805	0930	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 384	Daily	1155	1320			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	1350	1510	P2,995	P2,669	P2,399

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	0800	0900	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 480	Daily	1830	1930			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/W/Th/Sat	1310	1340	P1,599	P1,399	P1,199

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	1150	1320	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
CEBU	5J - 432	W/Th/Sat	0830	0925	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/Tu/F/Sun	0830	0930	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0800	0900	P2,279	P1,979	P1,649

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	- TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA
MANILA	- HONGKONG	5J - 112	Daily	0850	1050
		5J - 118	Daily	1640	1840
HONG KONG	- MANILA	5J - 113	Daily	1150	1350
		5J - 119	Daily	1940	2140

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- *Insurance surcharge of P300 per sector is applicable to all fare types.*
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SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—Duffy Waldorf made birdie on two of the last four holes for a 4-under 67 that gave him a one-stroke lead in the Phoenix Open.

Getting up-and-down for birdie from about 42 meters on No. 17 Saturday gave Waldorf some breathing room, but not much.

He was at 16-under 197, one stroke ahead of Kenny Perry and Chris DiMarco, with John Daly another stroke back with a slew of others still in the hunt.

Meanwhile, in Wailea, Hawaii, Hale Irwin birdied the final hole and won the last 11 skins and a record $450,000 to win the Senior Skins Game on Saturday. **AP**

Upset rocks trials

NOEL Salvador, one of the country's fast rising triathlete and member of the RP training pool, shocked his more experienced rivals in the National Triathlon Trials 2002 (The Iloilo Challenge) last Saturday in Iloilo City

The event was sponsored by Rexona, Toyota, Pagcor and Speedo.

Salvador, a 28-year-old Bacolod City native, negotiated the lung-busting 51.5-km swim-bike-run event with a time of 2:10:16, to defeat veteran Abet Alon-alon by more than two minutes.

Alon-alon came in second with a clocking of 2:12:15, followed by veteran George Vilog (2:15:19).

In the distaff side, defending Champion Ani Karina de Leon bucked dehydration to retain her title. The 26-year-old lass out of UP Diliman timed 2:34:29.

Araneta derby on

THE COUNTRY'S foremost cocker-breeders see action today at the resumption of the PICA 7-Cock Derby series under the auspices of the pioneer National Cockers Association at the Araneta Coliseum.

Three-cock elimination fights are billed this afternoon, with the four-cock finals set for Wednesday, Jan. 30. Derby hosts are Edgar Santos, Ruel Ricafort, Patrick Puno and Alex Escalona.

Heading the star-studded field are Dicky Lim, solo champion of the recent World Slasher Cup; Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, ageless James Chiongbian, three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, twice Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's champion cockers Jun and Rudy Jingco and lawyer Rudy Salud.

Roligon tilt today

THE country's who's who in cockfighting will collide in the more than 80 exciting encounters of the 12th Anniversary P5.5-million 7-Cock National Derby that kicks off today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Host Rolly Ligon called on all patrons to come early as tickets will be on a buy-one, take-one basis until 6 p.m.

For inquiries, call tels. 833—16-38 or 833-22-75.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA—LA Lakers vs Philadelphia 76ers at 8 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Solar Channel (Sky and Home Cable)

Women's College Basketball 2002 - Georgia vs Florida at 9 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

This Week in the NBA at 12:30 p.m. on CNN

PBA OPENER

FedEx battles Coca-Cola

Feb. 10 (Araneta Coliseum)
4p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
5:30p.m.—Federal Express vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

FEDERAL Express sets out on its maiden voyage in the PBA against Coca-Cola when Asia's first play-for-pay cage loop opens its 28th season with the Commissioner's Cup on Feb. 10 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Known as the Express, FedEx introduces a motley crew of talented cagers old and new as the Bert Lina-owned squad squares off with the battle-tested Coca-Cola Tigers at 5:30 p.m.

Yancy De Ocampo, this year's top pick, will bring his act into the pros guided by veterans Jerry Codiñera, Paul Alvarez, Dindo Pumaren and Zaldy Realubit.

Renren Ritualo, picked eighth by the Express in the draft, lent his services to the national team and will not see action for FedEx until the second conference at the earliest.

The PBA franchise of FedEx came from Tanduay, which sold its rights reportedly for P75 million.

The Tigers, brandishing a new name after being acquired by San Miguel Corporation from the RFM Group of Companies, are composed of the lethal Pop Cola Panthers of old under the baton of coach Chot Reyes.

Like Ritualo, PBA stars Johnny Abarrientos, Poch Juinio, Jeffrey Cariaso, Rudy Hatfield and rookie Rafi Reavis were suppose to banner the Tigers but they have already committed to play for the national team.

Instead, William Antonio, Estong Ballesteros, Ato Morano, Jumbo Bolado and rookies Jojo Manalo, Gilbert Lao and Jason Misolas were left to carry the load for the Tigers.

Balik-import Roselle Ellis, a 6-foot-3 slasher, and former University of Alabama standout Fred Williams (6-foot-8) will reinforce the Tigers while the Express is still searching for a partner for the 6-foot-8 Roderick Rhodes.

PBA games will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays starting the conference. There will be only one game on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6 p.m. With doubleheaders slated Saturdays and Sundays, the games start at 4 p.m.

In another development, the PBA-spiked national team to the Asian Games will resume its training today with Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino of Sta. Lucia Realty expected to return to the fold.

Aquino had a slight misunderstanding with Asian Games head coach Jong Uichico last week, driving the 6-foot-9 slotman away from the practice sessions. Espino sympathized with his teammate and also shied away from training. Uichico is expected to name the two squads, which will compete in the Commissioner's Cup, within the week.

JAW-RIPPER
Vernon Forrest (left) absorbs a right to the jaw from Shane "Sugar" Mosley as they battle for the WBC welterweight championship Jan. 26 at New York's Madison Square Garden. Forrest withstood everything the champion threw at him and won a unanimous 12-round decision. REUTERS

Duran retires due to car crash

PANAMA CITY, Panama—A car crash apparently has done what three decades of battering in the boxing ring could not: push Roberto Duran into retirement.

"I can't return to fight anymore because this (recovery from injuries) is going to take a lot more time," the newspaper El Panama America quoted Duran as saying.

The four-time world champion suffered broken ribs, a collapsed lung and other injuries during a car crash in Argentina in October. His retirement had been widely expected but he had delayed any formal announcement. *AP*

MBA unfair to Adducul?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE MAN of the moment is Romel Adducul. He is a player in a tight fix, a man who is torn between two commitments; one to flag and country and the other to the Metropolitan Basketball Association where he is under contract with the LBC-Batangas Blades for a reported salary of P500,000 a month.

A many-time national player, the 6-foot-6 prized center may lose his chance at carrying the colors in the Asian Games later this year because of a conflict in the schedules of the MBA and the Philippine Basketball Association. The PBA opens its 2002 calendar on Feb. 19, with two RP training teams girding for the Busan Asiad that include Adducul seeing action. But at the same time, the fifth season of the MBA starts in April where Adducul's presence is badly needed to spice up interest in the beleaguered league. Which means that Adducul has to choose between suiting up for the RP training team if he is to pursue his bid for a slot in the Asian Games or playing for the MBA to honor a commitment.

"Romel would love to stay with the RP training team, but he has a commitment to the MBA," Adducul's manager Ed Ponceja said the other day. "*Ang sinabi sa amin, mukhang magkakaroon ng problema sa* schedule. If that happens, Romel must play in the MBA." Needless to say, this development did not sit well with national coach Jong Uichico who took umbrage at the fledging MBA. "Kaya wala tayong mapuntahan is because we're not looking at one direction. Sometimes, we always think of our selfish interest, *naiipit tuloy ang bata*," said Uichico, who replaced an ailing Ron Jacobs as antional team coach.

Adducul, then a shoo-in to become the PBA's No. 1 draft, was deprived of a chance to play in the PBA when MBA chair and Batangas owner Santi Araneta did not release him at the last minute of the drafting deadline. Yet days after when Adducul had been effectively removed from the PBA draft, Araneta announced that they were ready to trade Adducul to any other team.

"Foul!" fumed reader Ignatius Chogori in a faxed message. "Mr. Araneta should announce this earlier so that those things would be patched up on time. Not a day before the deadline."

Chogori was disgusted that Araneta not only deprive Adducul's dream of entering the PBA, but also deprived all Filipino basketball fans of their dream of watching this great player match up against the PBA's best. By their very action, the MBA and the Blades have dealt Adducul the unkindest cut of all by taking away from him the opportunity of a lifetime.

* * *

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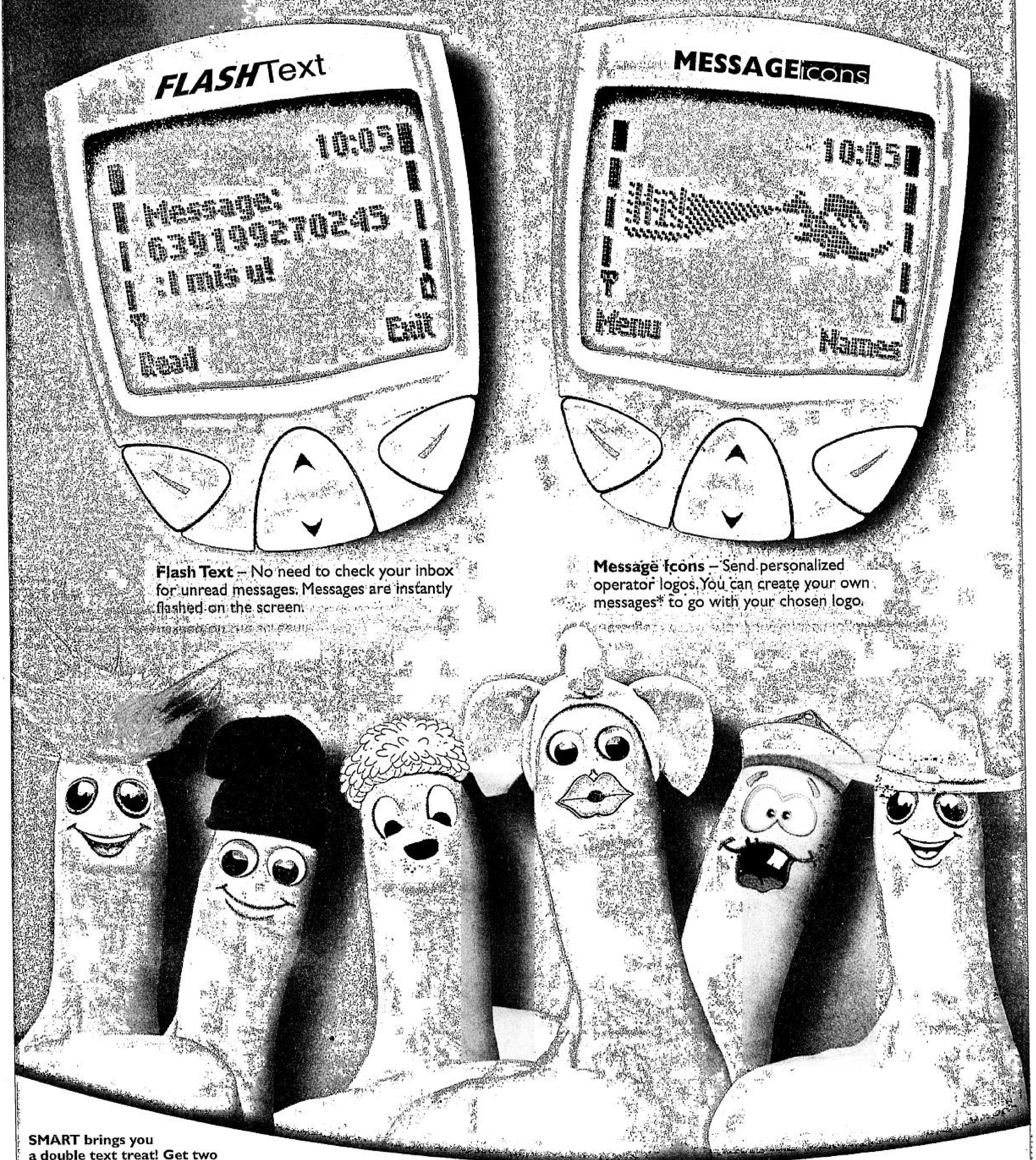

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Muntinlupa grenade suspect seen armed and free /A27

METRO

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Strawberry kin fear whitewash /A26

'I'm just a peacemaker'

Angara explains role; Korina wants maid's lawyer disbarred

By Rocky Nazareno and Christian V. Esguerra

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday admitted that he met with the lawyer of the maid who accused ABS-CBN newsreader and talk show host Korina Sanchez and her reported boyfriend Paul O. Aquino of beating her up last December, and that he asked the lawyer to settle the case peaceably and amicably.

ANGARA

But in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Angara denied that he, in behalf of Sanchez, offered a financial settlement to Bernadita Inocencio, 42, through her lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr.

The senator also admitted Mauricio is his fraternity brother. Both are members of the Sigma Rho fraternity of the University of the Philippines College of Law.

Angara also denied that he was godfather to the broadcaster, but he admitted he was asked to stand as sponsor to a wedding Sanchez had planned but had apparently cancelled. He refused to say who was the intended groom.

"That's a side issue already," Angara said.

'I'M JUST/ 26

Strike threat greets new traffic rule

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAJOR transport organization yesterday threatened to stage a nationwide strike to prevent the implementation of a new traffic policy it described as "anti-people."

The Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide Inc. (Piston) warned it would mobilize its 130,000 members nationwide if the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Land Transportation Office implement the new policy.

According to the new policy, the MMDA and the LTO will revoke the licenses of drivers found violating traffic regulations for the third time.

Piston president Medardo Roda said "the government has no right to take away the jobs of thousands of jeepney drivers" by implementing the new policy.

"The government should instead fulfill its promise to generate jobs for the poor," he said.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Friday announced that drivers who would lose their licenses would not be allowed to renew them for at least a year.

During that time span, the drivers will be made to undergo seminars on traffic regulations, according to Abalos.

Roda called the policy "unconstitutional."

Once a driver has settled the penalty for a first offense, he should be given a clean slate and a succeeding violation should not be considered a second offense, Roda argued. If this is done, there will be no such persons as "habitual offenders," according to him.

But Roda's argument may just fall on deaf ears as the LTO is now setting up a nationwide data base for a more efficient monitoring of traffic violations.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 28 912-8953

Strawberry kin fear whitewash

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

RELATIVES and close friends of slain former child actress Strawberry (Anouk Baldo in real life) yesterday urged the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police to be wary of efforts to divert the investigation from the real killers.

They said the efforts became apparent in the involvement of influential personalities who are trying to dip their hands in the investigation and influence its outcome.

In an open letter, the "concerned friends of Strawberry" called on Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to direct the NBI to hasten the investigation "before the case is muddled by patronage politics."

Sources close to Strawberry revealed that there is now intense lobbying by the camps of Strawberry's boyfriend Mark John Doromal and of businessman Raynaldo Picar with police officials and politicians, including a senator who has links to the PNP.

They questioned the role of retired police general Marino Filart, former chief of the now-defunct Capital Regional Command (Capcom), the forerunner of today's National Capital Region Police Office.

Filart attended the case conference of the PNP-CIDG, NBI and Las Pinas police last Jan. 9 at the PNP headquarters. He supposedly represented Strawberry's mother, Rosanne Sumayao.

Strawberry's mother is estranged from her father, TV executive Oscar Baldo. Filart is allegedly Sumayao's current live-in partner.

Sources said Filart was a former police superior of Doromal's father, who owns a security agency in Las Piñas.

Today, the 40th day after the killing, Strawberry's classmates will attend a Mass for her at the University of Asia and the Pacific in Makati City.

Asiad cage crown campaign not the real thing

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

THE ORIGINAL coach, an American, landed in the hospital with an injured, overworked heart.

His substitute, a young Filipino, also started to lose his cool and figured in a squabble with at least two top national team aspirants.

There's always gripping tension whenever they conduct tryouts for national basketball teams.

In the ongoing preparations for the Asian Games basketball championship, we were left guessing when Ron Jacobs, still in the hospital after suffering a stroke, would be relieved.

Fans then found themselves at their wits' end before Jong Uichico was officially named substitute national coach.

Not enough. Before the weekend, big guys Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino walked out on Uichico over a question of tardiness and penalties.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino and Sta. Lucia manager Buddy Encarnado had to rush in to soothe bruised egos.

But whether or not the two Sta. Lucia standouts are rejoining the tryouts won't be known until Uichico makes a roll call at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Complex.

* * *

You can bet there will be more hitches on the road to the Asian Games in September.

In fact, there are knowledgeable people who have cast doubts on the merits of the ambitious campaign.

The Asiad is not the real thing for a great basketball country like the Philippines. That's according to coach Felton Sealey of the Malaysian national cage squad.

In a talk with columnist Joaquin Henson of Star, Sealey twitted top RP basketball officials for skipping the Asian Basketball Confederation qualifiers for both the Olympics and the World Championships.

"The Philippines is living in a dream world," Sealey told Henson. "It should get down from its high horse. Sending its best players once in four years to play in the Asian Games is not enough."

Sealey said Filipino players deserve to play in the Olympics and the World Championships because they've got the talent and skills to qualify.

The country can't go wrong, the expert added, because the Philippines is a melting pot where players are exposed to different styles. The diversity itself is an advantage in international competition.

* * *

The last time a Philippine basketball team played in the Olympics was in 1972, in Munich.

The country first played in the 1936 Olympiad in Berlin, where it finished fifth despite having lost only one game, against the United States.

The strongest finish by the Philippines, and by an Asian squad, was achieved in the 1954 World Championships in Rio de Janeiro where a team coached by Herminio Silva and skippered by Lauro Mumar captured the bronze medal.

The sorry slip suffered by the Philippines in international meets has been traced to serious leadership squabbles.

Sealey said the fragmentation in Philippine basketball is a big disgrace.

You can't afford to be selfish, he advised, "because basketball is bigger than all of us."

* * *

Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. Henson, for helping bring out those timely reminders.

Now, it's no plain coincidence that those hefty shots from Malaysia have been backed up a similar cry from a native son, basketball scholar Teddy Reynoso, who calls himself a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the game from Bulacan, Bulacan.

Mr. Reynoso has in fact sent an open letter to former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco, portion of which we reprint here:

"Boss Danding, perhaps you are also aware of the continuing decline in the popularity and influence of the PBA over the past few years. As the virtual owner of not one but four franchises, your company, San Miguel Corp., holds the key to the continued viability and survival of Asia's first professional basketball league.

"Our disillusionment with the PBA is borne out of its irrational refusal to lend its players, definitely the best we now have, to international tournaments that matter the most to us fans: the ABC qualifiers to the Olympics and the World Championships. *Wala na ba tayong ambisyon pang bumalik sa* Olympic basketball?

"Our disenchantment is aggravated by the increasing orientation toward commercialization and crass materialism through sports entertainment. The total, systematic development of Philippine basketball has now taken the back seat in favor of imports and Fil-Am cagers. Truth is, the influx of these foreign reinforcements has not truly rejuvenated the league.

"I write to you, sir, with the hope of convincing you to do something, not only to bring the PBA back to its original sports development orientation but also to make the pro league relevant and useful to the national cause. Shouldn't our finest cagers be encouraged by the PBA to also dream ultimately of carrying the national flag in the Olympics? Isn't it the responsibility of the PBA to nurture and support the realization of that dream as a goodwill to the Filipino people, particularly the loyal fans?"

Mr. Reynoso says Mr. Cojuangco holds the key to the realization of a Filipino dream.

The letter will be sent in its original form to the addressee.

Blast hurts 6

A GRENADE explosion in Marikina City injured six people late Friday night, police said.

Supt. Cipriana Quirol, Marikina's newly designated chief of police, said the injured were Rafael Erfe, 45; his son Michael, 14; Mary Grace Azur, 45; Mario Baco, 26; Uldarico Coderias, 24; and Wenceslao Lapana, 45.

Quirol said the explosion happened at 10:20 p.m. along J.P. Rizal Street when an unidentified person threw the grenade from a passenger jeep driven by Jessie Sestorano, who was placed under police custody. Another man, Roel de Asis, 27, was also placed under detention.

A few hours earlier, a fragmentation grenade was thrown inside a house in Parang, also in Marikina. It hit electrician Joel Erasmo, 32, in the head. The grenade did not explode but it left a big lump on Erasmo's forehead, police said. ***Nelson F. Flores***

'I'm just . . .

(From page A25)

Sanchez has filed a complaint against Mauricio for allegedly going to town portraying her as a "grossly immoral woman."

In a three-page letter dated Jan. 10, Sanchez asked Chief Justice Hilario Davide to reprimand Mauricio for conduct unbecoming of a lawyer.

"Hitting a woman below the belt, as Atty. Mauricio has done as if he himself has no mother, wife or sister, should not be tolerated and allowed," Sanchez said in her letter.

Speaking in Filipino, Angara told the INQUIRER: "Well, we talked because we're fraternity brods. I told him that Korina is a good friend of mine and that he was also my friend. I asked him why the case he was handling was messy, why not settle it peaceably and amicably? But his allegation that I offered a financial settlement on behalf of Korina is absolutely false. In the first place, she has her own lawyer."

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER earlier yesterday, the senator said he was "simply trying to be a peacemaker" when he met with Mauricio. "In the first place, I was not asked nor was authorized by Korina to do that," he said.

Mauricio claimed earlier that Sanchez sought the intervention of Angara for an amicable settlement of the criminal cases Inocencio filed against her, including non-remittance of the maid's contributions to the Social Security System while still an employee of Sanchez.

Himself a talk show host on a radio station of GMA-7, the biggest rival of Sanchez's ABS-CBN network, Mauricio had said he met with Angara at the Senate last week to talk about the case. He said Angara had asked him during the meeting to help in the settlement of the cases filed against Sanchez, who was said to have been worried about the backlash on her career.

Quoting Angara, Mauricio said Sanchez wanted to settle to "avoid further embarrassment" to her and her network.

In her complaint against Mauricio, Sanchez claimed the lawyer went "an extra mile" to sully her reputation when he allegedly distributed copies of a supplementary affidavit containing what she described as "half-truths and lies about (her) personal as well as alleged sex life."

Mauricio yesterday denied Sanchez's allegations. He said the information contained in Inocencio's 10-page affidavit executed last Dec. 26 does not destroy the reputation of the broadcaster but merely "paint(s) a general picture of who she is."

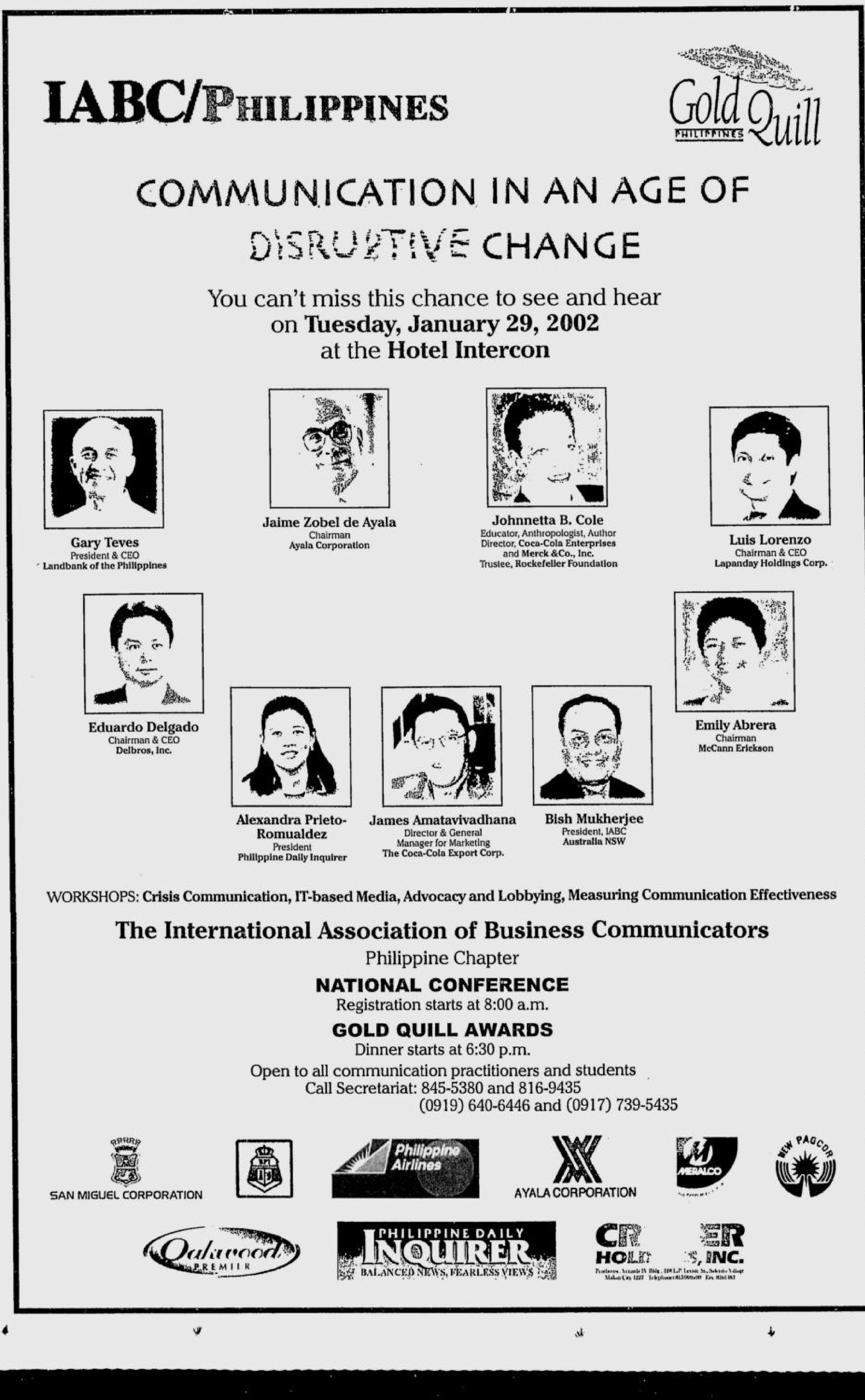
He described Sanchez's complaint against him as her "last-ditch effort to get away from all the charges filed against her."

Sanchez has a separate complaint against Inocencio. She sued her former maid before the Makati prosecutor's office for allegedly stealing her gold bracelet.

Sanchez said in her letter that Mauricio submitted copies of the affidavit to the ABS-CBN management and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas asking ABS-CBN and the KBP to expel her for "gross moral unfitness."

She claimed Mauricio also distributed copies of the affidavit to the media.

"It is obvious to me and my family that the main purpose of the (distribution was) precisely to humiliate and ridicule me in the eyes of the public," Sanchez said in her letter.



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Muntinlupa grenade suspect seen armed and free

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAN suspected to be behind last week's grenade explosion in Muntinlupa has returned to the scene of the crime, according to witnesses.

The man, whom police have already identified, had three unidentified male companions when he was seen roaming Montillano Extension near the Alabang viaduct, according to a police source. The suspect was flaunting a pistol while selling fake VCDs, the source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"He doesn't seem to care," the source said. "He just walks freely as if nothing happened. But everybody knows he did it."

The man was believed to be the one who threw a fragmentation grenade in front of a store on Montillano last Monday. Three people, including two children, were killed and at least 28 others were injured during the blast.

Police have also pinpointed the whereabouts of the suspect, said SPO3 Ricardo Moral of the Alabang community precinct. They have at least two witnesses who reportedly saw the man, accompanied by three others, throw the grenade, Moral said.

Last week, authorities searched for the suspect in Maharlika Village in Taguig after an informant told them the man was living there, police said, but the man was not found.

A long-running rift between vendors and members of Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi's Traffic Enforcement and Discipline (TED) team reportedly triggered the grenade blast.

The suspect and several other vendors allegedly got mad at the TED team for driving them away from the Montillano area as part of the local government's campaign against illegal vendors, police said.

Police learned the suspect was particularly angry at TED's Joel Navarro, 38, one of those killed in the grenade blast, said Moral.

A week before the explosion, Navarro and his team reportedly chanced upon the suspect sleeping at his stall on Montillano Extension. Navarro allegedly splashed water on the man to drive him away.

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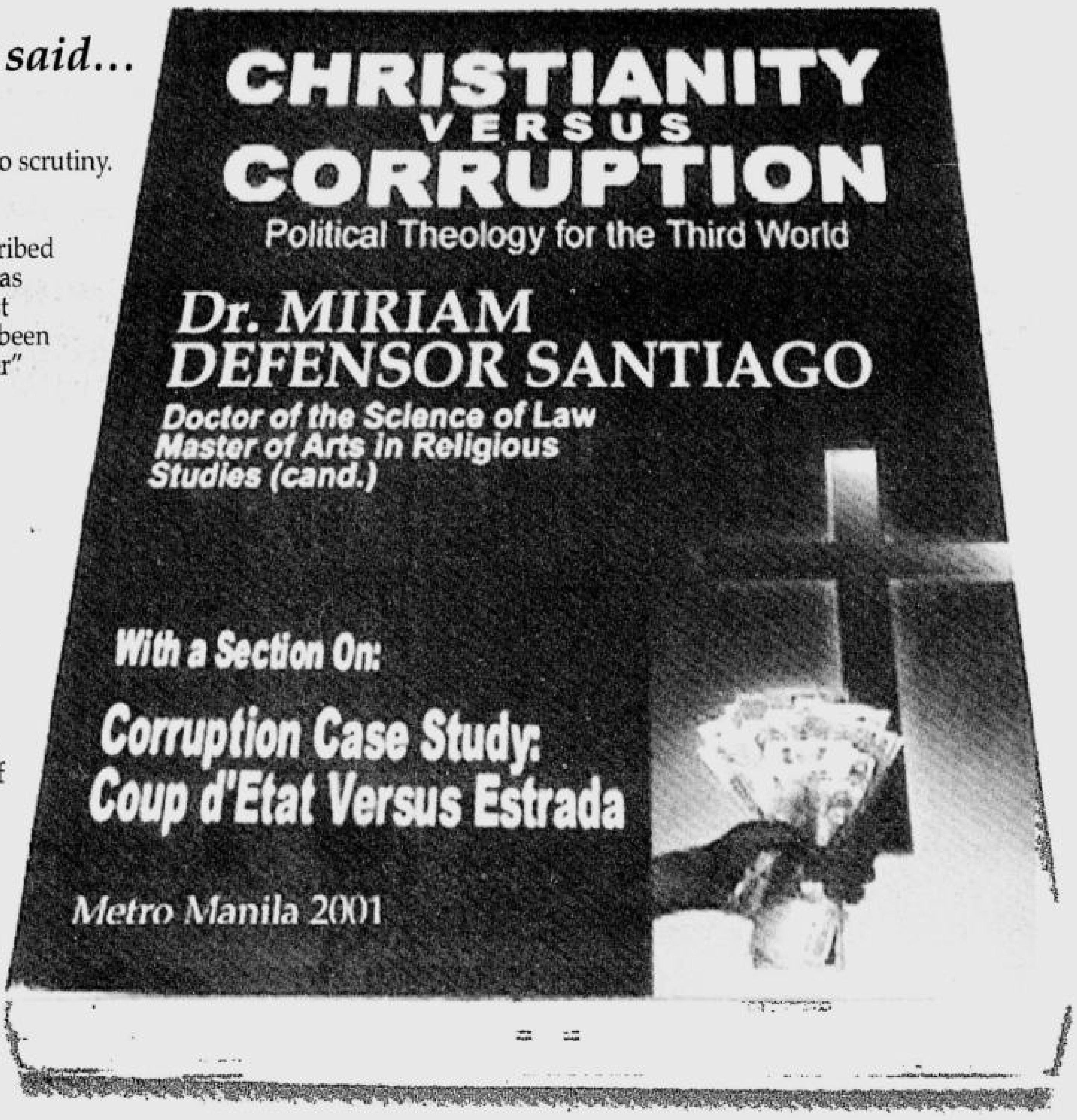

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over the presidency in constitutional circumstances that do not stand up well to scrutiny.
The Economist, 28 July – 30 August 2001 at p. 11

People Power 2 was met with doubt and criticism, described by foreign commentators as a "defeat for due process," as "mob rule," as "a de facto coup." It was seen as an elitist backlash against a President who had overwhelmingly been elected by the poor. This time it appears, "people power" was used not to restore democracy but, momentarily, to supplant it.
Seth Mydans, New York Times News Service, 6 February 2001

Remember, Estrada – however cynically – was acting within the framework of the law and under the terms called for by the impeachment proceedings. Had he been declared guilty, he would have had to go. The troubling point remains that he had not been convicted... But they had mechanisms to legally change their head of state. The option they chose, popular uprising, while rousing and probably justified, could portend a troubling future for democracy... But if those protests lead to constitutionally questionable successions, it becomes a subversion of democracy. Even now, we don't know what percentage of Filipinos wanted Erap to go.
Sandra Burton, Time, 29 January 2001 at p. 19

But the Philippine polity is 77 million-strong. Was this a revolution of the Filipino people – or of a few hundred thousand Filipinos prompted by a few hundred powerful individuals? Perhaps this represents confusion between democratic passions and the rule of law. More likely, though, People Power has become its own institution, and one that seems monopolized by a certain clique... People Power has become an acceptable term for a troubling phenomenon: one that used to be known as mob rule.
Anthony Spaeth, Time, 29 January 2001 at p. 22

The change of power in the Philippines was no boost for democracy because it was done outside the Constitution..."Change No Boost for `Democracy: SM"
Associated Press, The Straits Times, 26 January 2001

In everyone of these earlier instances, people power was used to oust a dictator, a political party that refused to hold elections, or a leader (Marcos or Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic) who held onto power after a disputed election. Now by contrast, we are witnessing the use of people power against a leader who was the winner of a legitimate democratic election. No matter how understandable it was, this outbreak of people power doesn't feel like an advance for the cause of democracy, quite the opposite... Who or what, ultimately, was this particular movement against?... "A Risky Move by Filipinos",
Jim Mann, LA Times, 24 January 2001

...This time however, the target of Filipinos' "people power" was not a dictator, like Ferdinand Marcos, but Joseph Estrada, a constitutional executive who received more votes than any previous presidential candidate and who remained popular among the country's poor... Though the Supreme Court ruled that Vice-President Macapagal-Arroyo should be sworn in as president, it was the military that forced the change, and the legality of the transfer remains questionable.
The Washington Post, 23 January 2001

Again, therefore, whatever curious legal construction anyone may now attempt to put on the ouster of Estrada, he was ousted by a military coup, with the connivance of the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, major business groups and two former presidents. This will have any number of consequences, none too pleasant, for the coup makers and – more importantly – for the country. One loser among the coup makers will be the Archbishop of Manila, Jaime Cardinal Sin, and his church... Economically, from the standpoint of foreign investors, would you put money into a country whose constitution and legal system are only as reliable as the will and whim of an entrenched oligarchical elite...
Editorial: "Philippines: Banana Republic – At Best", Asia Times, 23 January 2001 at p. A16

However, far from being a victory for democracy that is being claimed by leaders of Jaime Sin, the evolution of events has been a defeat for due process. For many, it merely confirms the fragility of political institutions in the Philippines and the likelihood that the streets will become a regular location for political action "Filipino Democracy Needs Stronger Institutions",
Philip Bowring, International Herald Tribune, 22 January 2001

The result is that the Philippines, known for the "people power" movement that brought down Ferdinand Marcos, has the wrong kind of people power for the 21st century... The Philippines faces a political crisis that goes beyond the need to replace the person at the top. The challenge is to correct the situation in which society is divided into those who can outsmart the system and those who cannot. "Removing Estrada Will Not Save the Philippines",
Hilton L. Root, International Herald Tribune, 21 November 2000

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'OCEAN'S ELEVEN'

Let's just have fun!

CLOONEY and the gang (from left): George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Eliott Gould and Don Cheadle.

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

"OCEAN'S Eleven" producer Jerry Weintraub said of the original "Ocean's 11" that was shot in Las Vegas in 1959: "What people went to see in the original film was Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop on screen together. They could have been reading the telephone book and it would have been exactly as successful."

I never saw the original but with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle and Julia Roberts in the Steven Sorderbergh update of that Rat Pack film, you could probably say the same thing.

These stars could have been reading the telephone book and people would have come just to see them together.

Thankfully, there's more to the film than star power. There's Sorderbergh's direction and camera work (he uses the screen alias Peter Andrews in the credits). He is the only director to have two films nominated for Best Picture and Best Director in the same year ("Traffic" and "Erin Brockovich" in the Academy Awards last year where he won best director for "Traffic"). He certainly knows his stuff.

In "Ocean's Eleven" he uses this snazzy, pulsating style of filmmaking that is reminiscent of a bygone era in Hollywood. It is the kind of film you should see when you want nothing more than to spend an easy, enjoyable two hours inside a moviehouse. There are no complicated issues in the film that will get in the way of your popcorn munching.

Just fun

From beginning to end it coasts along on a certain confidence that one expects but rarely gets in action-comedies nowadays. It never forces anything on you and doesn't try hard to impress, but it does impress anyway in its consummate, laid-back style. This lightweight enterprise is quite a departure from the kind of material Sorderbergh is used to working on but it hardly matters because he proves to be just as adept in this "let's-just-have fun" atmosphere.

The clever script by Ted Griffin may offer little to talk about but it's efficient at keeping you interested. There's plenty of stuff to complement the stargazing: comedy riffs, cool, crisp dialogue, interesting characters and enough believability and tension in the plot and its twists.

The basic storyline is simple enough. A group of guys, each of whom possesses a special skill, gets together to try to pull off a most incredible caper: Steal a ton of money from three Las Vegas casinos (The Bellagio, the Mirage and the MGM Grand) owned by megalomaniac Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia). All the money is stored in just one vault but the security system is one that "rivals that of most nuclear missile silos." It's mission impossible, of course, and half the fun of caper flicks like this is seeing this grand scheme come together.

Scene stealers

The other half comes from having a bunch of guys worth rooting for. Danny Ocean and his 11-man crew (hence the title) may not be Robin Hood and his merry men but they have endearing qualities and they are somewhat honorable thieves. They steal only from someone who they think rightly deserves it, and they don't try to hurt anybody. In a way, they're kind of like the A-team, only with more men.

Brad Pitt (in Dean Martin's role) plays Rusty, Ocean's confidant and detail man. Matt Damon is Linus, a pickpocket with a legacy to uphold, and Don Cheadle is a Cockney explosives expert. They all turn in credible performances but the scene-stealers are veterans Elliot Gould, Carl Reiner and Bernie Mac.

Gould eats up the screen as Reuben Tishkoff, the once formidable but now sidelined casino kingpin who's always garbed in jewelry, open shirts and oversized glasses. Reiner is a class act as Saul, the aging con man Ocean and Rusty lure out of retirement. And Mac as the team's casino insider gets to deliver one of the film's most hilarious scenes when he howls against racism to provide the distraction the team needs.

Cool Clooney

Completing Ocean's crew are the Malloy Brothers (Scott Caan and Casey Affleck), automotives experts and poseurs, and Yen, the amazing Chinese acrobat they use as a "grease man" (first-time actor and "Peking Acrobats" member Shaobo Qin).

George Clooney seems to have nailed the gentleman-rogue role, with another character similar to the ones he played in "Out of Sight" and "Three Kings." He looks dapper whether in a prison uniform or a tuxedo and he always has this confident swagger about him. His Danny Ocean comes off with an unforced charm that the great Frank Sinatra would be proud of, or be envious of.

It's easy to think of Ocean as the leader of this highly diverse and talented group of characters because Clooney's a guy most of us would not mind to be captain of our team.

His cool takes on a quiet intensity in scenes with Julia Roberts, who plays Ocean's ex-wife and Benedict's current girl Tess. The banter between the exes is delightful. Ocean: (Referring to Benedict) "Does he make you laugh?" Tess: "Well, he doesn't make me cry." Tess: "Didn't you get my divorce papers?" Ocean: "The last day I was inside (prison)." Tess: "I told you I'd write."

Because she's Julia

Ocean's real agenda in pulling off the heist makes the film more engaging, and the George and Julia scenes at least salvage the thinly explored love triangle of Ocean, Tess and Benedict.

Roberts is her usual knockout self but she is relegated to chewing on a few nice lines, looking great and projecting her own personality.

Why Tess is seriously seeing a rat like Terry Benedict is a mystery. And why Ocean would be willing to risk so much for a woman who leaves him for a rat is another. But it's as if the filmmakers are saying, well, because she's Julia Roberts. That should be enough.

And you know what? For a film like "Ocean's Eleven," they're most certainly right. Watch out for Roberts' closing credit billing and you'll get the drift.

JANICE AND GELLI DE BELEN

Show hosts, sisters, mothers, friends

SISTERS Janice and Gelli de Belen are so alike and also so different.

They're both so bubbly and so spirited that talking to them in one sitting is like trying to talk to a whole crowd of people all talking at the same time.

Both can sometimes sound girlish, but they also often sound much older than their young years.

Right before the public eye, they turned from girls to women. But while Gelli seems to be having a happy and peaceful married life with Ariel Rivera and their sons Joaqui and Julio, Janice is trying to cope with life as a single mom following her separation from her husband, TV host John Estrada.

After a long absence from show biz, the De Belen sisters are back, hosting GMA 7's daily morning talk show, "Sis."

You're both mothers. What adjustments did you have to make when you started hosting 'Sis'?

Gelli: Time. The adjustment is with Ariel because we don't have a *yaya* and the kids are left with him when I tape the show.

Janice: Nothing much in my case. It's just like before. Whenever I have to work, I have to make sure *okay ang mga anak ko, may pagkain at may sundo*. Besides, we don't finish very late.

So far, who have been the most interesting interviews for you?

J: A lot. *Minsan parang bitin pa*, especially when the subject is very interesting. I talked to Miriam Santiago and Winnie Monsod.

We had the former child stars *at tuwang-tuwa ako sa kanila*. JP de Guzman, Atong Redillas, Lady Lee, Bamba.

G: They've turned out so well. *Nagulat kami*. We didn't expect the interview with them to be really interesting.

What do you think of each other as hosts?

J: I will keep my opinion to myself.

G: *Si* Janice, very careful *siya*. *'Pag* serious *ang usapan, siya 'yon*. Sometimes, it really depends on who the guest is and the focus of the interview.

J: *'Pag balahuraan, si* Gelli. *Mas* vocal *siya sa akin*.

Are you still affected by what the media say about you?

J: *Sa tagal ko at sa sobrang dami, hindi na*. If I will mind everything, *tatanda ako agad*. It's been 23 years.

G: I grew up with this. *Mga* 15 years *na 'ko rito sa* show biz. Even before I was acting, matter of fact *na sa akin ang buhay na ganito*.

Who are your dream interviews?

J: Ping Lacson. There's a certain mystery about him. When you look at him, you feel you want to know more about the person. I want to see him laugh.

G: Dolphy. I believe he's really the king of comedy.

What will you ask Ping Lacson or Dolphy?

J: It can't be just one question. I will probably ask (Lacson) 40 questions. I want to know if he prays, if he watches movies, if he knows how to text, if he can go malling alone.

G: I want to ask Dolphy how he got his timing *na* up to this day is still popular with the audience. *Nagpalit na ng* generations *ang* audience, *'yung* style *ng* comedy and *uso*, but he remains funny.

(To Janice) How long do you think you will stay a single parent?

A little longer *pa siguro*.

Are you used to your life now as a single parent?

Yes, I am.

Of course, you two discuss personal matters.

G: *Ngayon na lang, kasi* before she did not want to hear anything from me.

J: I really don't discuss personal problems with my family. *Kasi ang* feeling *ko*, if you discuss your personal problems with your family, whether you like it or not, it will cause a little animosity.

What don't you like about each other?

G: She doesn't listen.

J: There's nothing that I don't like about Gelli. Non-judgmental *ako* when it comes to things.

Did you ever meddle in each other's personal affairs?

J: Even if I have the chance, I keep thinking, *malaki na si* Gelli. She knows what she wants. Even if I want to do something for her, she will still make her own decision.

G: Even when I ask Janice, she tells me, *"Bahala ka."*

But when Janice was having marriage problems, did you talk to her?

G: *Hindi pa rin. Ayaw niya talagang makinig.*

Pero kahit na ano'ng mangyari sa buhay niya, whether fabulous or *palpak*, she became my role model.

No sibling rivalry?

G: *Iba naman 'yung* character *namin at 'yung* interests *namin*.

(To Janice) What have you learned from your younger sister?

Sometimes it pays to be vocal, outspoken and *mataray*.

G: Janice has great patience. *Ako*, whatever I feel at any particular moment, that's it. *Kung mainit ang ulo ko, 'yun na 'yon. Mas madali namang mawala ang init ng ulo ko kasi nailalabas ko agad.*

GELLI and Janice de Belen

J: She's more prone to having a heart attack.

(To Gelli) What did you feel when Janice had a child out of wedlock?

I was still young then and I was super excited that we would soon have a baby at home. When it comes to kids, *chika lang ako diyan*. Join.

***Ninang ka raw ng lahat ng anak ni* Janice?**

Correct! *Sino pa ba naman?* There's just the two of us.

What does Janice have that you also would like to have?

G: Plenty of children. She has five. After my second child, I cannot have anymore even if I want to.

As a professional?

G: I like her acting. If I can just act like her . . .

Do you acknowledge that she's a better actress?

G: *Oo naman.*

But you've won an acting award from the Urian.

The competition that year (1994) was not stiff. But I was lucky because I was not up against the likes of Nora Aunor or Vilma Santos. If you see those names, *huwag ka na talaga umasa. Ang nakalaban ko sina* Carmina (Villaroel) and Kris (Aquino), so *may laban talaga.*

Who's more vain between the two of you?

G: *Ako.*

J: *Basta naka*-blower, *okay na ko*. I can go out of the house *na. Si* Gelli, *dapat naka*-make-up, lipstick *at may* blushing gel *pa. Pati kilay niya dapat ayos.*

What do you like most about Janice?

G: Her skin. It's flawless.

What's wrong with yours?

G: *Palagi akong may* pimple. Janice's skin has closed pores. *Ako may* blackhead, whitehead. But you'll know instantly when Janice has her period, *kasi may* pimple *na malaki pero isa lang.*

What are your passions?

J: Aside from my kids, when I have a hobby, I devote so much time to it. Like when I did cross stitching before. Now it's beads, which I turn into necklaces and bracelets. I even go to Divisoria to buy the beads.

G: My sons. My youngest, Julio, is one year old and Joaqui is three. I spend almost all of my time at home with them. Sometimes *nga*, I even have to sneak away from them just to turn on my computer.

What do you dream for your children?

G: I want them to live their life to the fullest, to be God-fearing, respectful and happy.

Are you like that now?

Yes. I also want them to find the right person when they settle down so they will be happy.

J: I don't have dreams for my kids because I don't want my dreams to be a hindrance to their own dreams. I just want them to be what they want to be, to keep their values intact and to always pray and respect their elders.

What do you wish for Gelli?

J: *Ano pa, masaya na ang buhay niya*. But she's very lucky to have Ariel for a husband. He is very hardworking.

Who's more protective?

J: *Siya* (pointing to Gelli). For me *kasi*, Gelli is old enough. *Kung may away siya*, that's her fight. She has to face it.

Why did you allow your (and Aga Muhlach's) son Luigi to join show biz?

J: I've been delaying it for the longest time. He's now in third year high school and he's so tall. Among the "Ang TV" cast, he's probably the tallest. And I'm sure he'll get even taller. He's only 14.

What don't you like about TV?

J: I know I already lost weight, but on TV I still look big.

G: *Sa* TV *buking lahat ng* imperfections *mo*.

J: But I like TV better than movies. *Sa* movies *kasi ang tagal matapos*. On TV, you tape today, *mamaya tapos na. Sa* movies *kasi parang mas nangangapa ako palagi. Hindi pwedeng tuloy-tuloy ang* emotions. *Kailangan putulin* and then you need another take.

What would you tell young mothers like you?

J: When you're married, you tend to forget who you are. You tend to pay attention and devote your time to your family. That is not wrong. Giving up your identity to be one with another person is not really wrong.

But leave a little for yourself so that when something happens, it will not be very hard for you. There are women who recover easily. But some women take years to get over things.

J: Devote your time and affection to your family. Nurture your children as much as you can. But in the process of doing that, don't ever forget yourself because what good are you to your family if you can't share yourself with them? What else is there to share with them? You need to continually grow. How can you love and respect others when you don't love and respect yourself?

Did you feel this was the case with Janice?

G: *Alam ko, papunta na dun ang* question *mo* (Smiles). Yes. *Siya rin, aminado siya.*

J: Everything that happened to me is responsible for the kind of person that I am now.

Who's more intense in love?

G: (To Janice) *Siya!*

J: *Kasi sa akin* there's no middle ground. It's yes or no, all or nothing. No what-ifs.

What do you do for mental stimulation?

J: I read and talk a lot. Hosting and interviewing stimulate your brain. I also believe that your experiences in life are all part of your mental stimulation.

G: Reading is a big thing for me. I also talk to friends, my husband, to everybody, *sa* TV.

J: You talk to the TV?

G: *Gaga!*

What do you fight about?

G: When we were younger, toys. Very petty. *Batuhan, buhusan. May sumbungan.*

Did you ever pull each other's hair?

G: I don't remember.

J: Never. *Kasi unang-una, duwag ako.*

When it comes to boys, who is more picky?

G: *Magka-iba kami ng* taste. *Si* Janice *gusto niya mga* pretty boys —Gabby (Concepcion), Aga.

J: I like them to be really clean and good-looking.

G: *Hindi ako mahilig sa mestizo*. But when we liked someone, *yun na 'yon. Kahit may* five million other guys *pa* on the side, *hindi na namin papansinin.*

What did your parents say when your marriage broke up?

J: At that time, I was not even talking to my sister, let alone my parents.

G: It was not something she liked to talk about. So *deadma na lang ako at ngitngit* on the side. *Mahigit isang taon ko yata 'yun ginawa.*

At the end of the day, what do you think of?

J: I think of my kids and how thankful I am for having them. I'm also thankful for being alive and still standing up despite what happened to my marriage.

G: I give thanks for my happy family, my husband, my beautiful children, for the family that I grew up with, my health.

What are you afraid of?

J: I am no longer afraid of emotional battles after what I went through.

G: I'm afraid my children could grow up with not as many choices as I had. I'm afraid they could grow up in a world that is not as beautiful as it should be for them.

What if World War III breaks out?

G: I'm just afraid. (Smiles)

J: You have to have faith that God will take care of you. The Bible says that He will always protect His children.

Ex-Streetboy buys townhouse for parents, car for himself

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

FORMER Streetboy **Vhong Navarro** admits that his membership in the all-male dance group and the guidance of their manager, **Chito Roño**, contributed to his solo success as a comedian.

"*Direk* Chito discovered me as a comedian," Vhong says. "When I was still in grade school, I was really *makulit*. When I was with the Streetboys, I would always make the other guys laugh. *Direk* Chito told me I could be a comedian."

Chito made Vhong audition for the ABS-CBN gag show "Super-Laff-In," where the dancer worked with **Redford White, Bayani Agbayani, Bearwin Meily** and **Bojo Molina**.

"I believe my comic skills were honed in my two years in that show," Vhong asserts. "I learned a lot of ways of making people laugh."

He was also cast in the short-lived sitcom "Spice Boys," as part of a trio with **Smokey Manaloto** and **Anjo Yllana**. The show was a spoof of "Three Stooges."

Soon, he was also making people laugh even on the big screen. He costarred with **Robin Padilla** and **Claudine Barretto** in "Ooops, Teka Lang," and with rapper-comedian **Andrew E** and sexy star **Rica Peralejo** in "Banyo Queen."

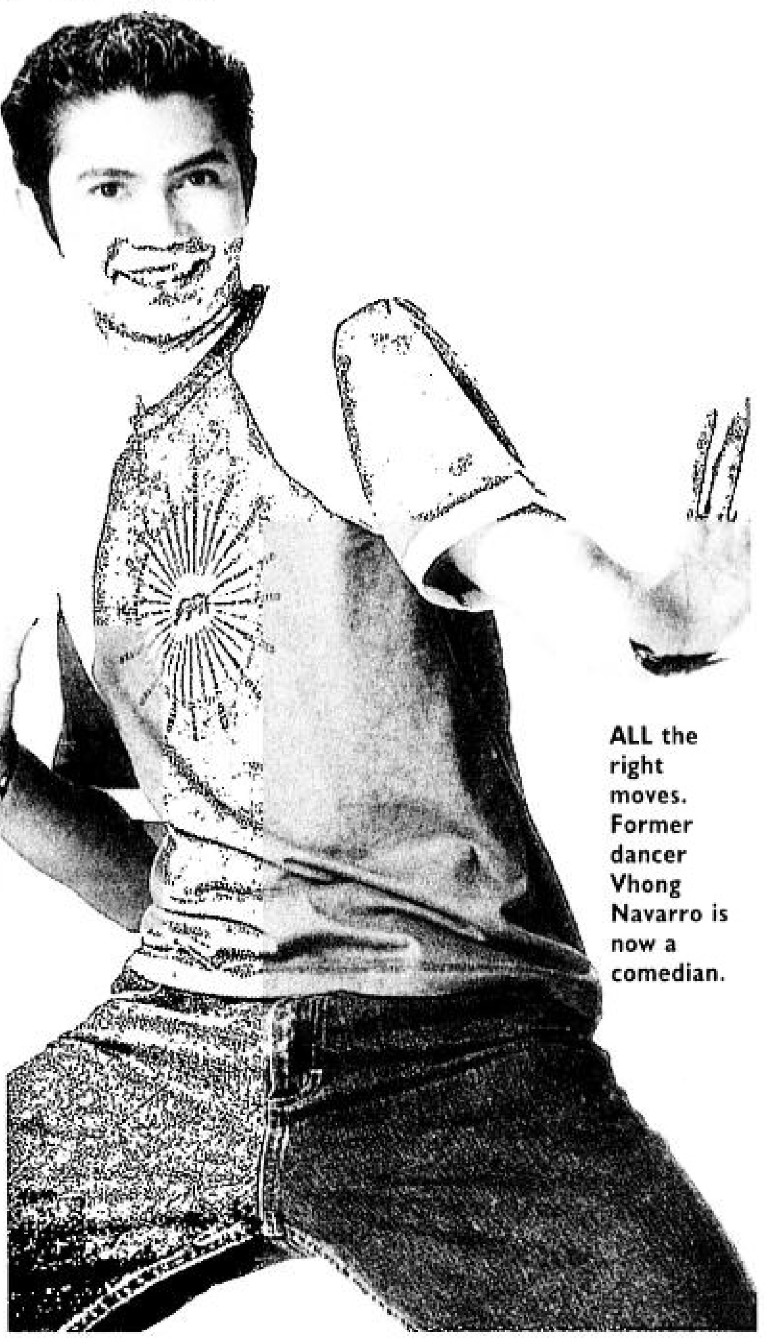
On TV, he got more breaks—with **Dolphy** on "Home Along da Riles" and again with Robin and Redford on "Pwedeng-Pwede."

Vhong plays the best friend of **Judy Ann Santos** in the new romantic-comedy "May Pag-ibig Pa Kaya," directed by **Jose Carreon**.

Vhong considers Hollywood comedian **Jim Carrey** his biggest idol. He also looks up to **Dolphy** from whom he learned a lot.

"I hope I'll also be given a chance to do offbeat roles," he says. "I want to play a retardate, a gay, someone with a dual personality or a psycho killer."

For someone who only wanted to dance, Vhong has been making all the right moves to enlarge his stage. He started with the Streetboys nearly 10 years ago, and he spends his show biz earnings well. He has bought a townhouse for his parents and a car for himself.



ALL the right moves. Former dancer Vhong Navarro is now a comedian.

In Maricel's steps

MERYLL Soriano is not your typical 19-year-old. While other girls her age are into late-night gimmicks, Meryl reads books, writes poetry and paints at home.

The daughter of comedian **Willie Revillame** and **Victoria "Bec-Bec" Soriano**, elder sister of **Maricel Soriano**, Meryll admits she has long given up on going out at night. She is often with her uncle, **Mel Martinez**, who will soon be her business partner in an experimental photography studio in Libis, Quezon City. They plan to call it Lente.

"He's only 26 and I'm 19, so our age gap is not that wide," Meryll says of Mel. "We're best friends. We get along so well."

Give her P20,000 and Meryll says she would rather spend it on books. "I like **Joyce Meynard**, and after 'Lord of the Rings,' I learned to like **Tolkien**, too," she says. "I was a huge fan of **Anne Rice**."

Even in the movies, Meryll is not about to give other sexy stars her age a run for their money and join the bold bandwagon. Although not against nudity, she is not one who will go with the trend.

"I don't have anything against bold or the people who do it," Meryl says. "They have the guts and the talent to do it. I just don't want to go bold."

Some friends and relatives have described her as "radical," perhaps because she "rebelled" against her parents when she was younger.

"When I was 14 or 15, that was my rebellion stage," she says. "I didn't want to go out. I stayed in my room and tried painting and writing poetry."

That was when she also thought of studying arts or film in London.

"My family didn't think I was serious about it, but I showed them that I was. I surfed the Net and asked for prospectuses from schools. I also went to the British Council."

To prepare for London, Meryll plans to take up European Studies at UP.

"I've always been fascinated with Europe," she says. "I want to go to London, see Paris and every major European city. There's something about Europe that has character.

"I was thinking of going to New York to study film but my family didn't want me to live there alone because I'm still young. But I want to start while I'm still young."

Meryll also sees herself eventually directing films. "I don't want to make glamour movies. I want something like 'The Godfather.' I don't want to compromise artistry."

Fortunately, Meryll enjoys the support of her family in her every undertaking.

"My family doesn't force me to do things I don't like," Meryll says. "They are very supportive, especially my mom. She has been very patient with me."

Meryll, whose real name is **Mary Rosalyn** (after her maternal grandmother **Rosalinda**), was only 8 when she decided to follow in the footsteps of her *Tita* Maricel. She was cast with **Aiza Seguerra** and **Atong Redillas** in the children's show "It Bulinggit."

"Idol *ko talaga si Tita* Maricel and I would imitate her. She is very versatile. She was the one who influenced me to enter show biz.

"I've learned a lot from her, how to deal with people, how to keep my cool and how to be professional. You learn a lot by just observing her."

When she was 10, Meryll left show biz briefly to concentrate on her studies. She started making movies in her mid-teens. She is now a mainstay on "Mary d' Potter" with Maricel on ABS-CBN and on GMA 7's soap "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga."

She recently was tapped to be the endorser of Milk Magic for Consolidated Dairy and Frozen Food Corp.

"I started the year not making any plans so I won't be disappointed when they don't happen," Meryll says. "I have goals and I intend to achieve them, careful not to let the same things that happened to my family also happen to me.

"I just want to let things take their course. I'm a very positive person. I love to learn. I always love to look at the brighter side of things."

INFLUENCED by her aunt, Maricel Soriano, Meryll now makes it on her own.

Chat with Lea

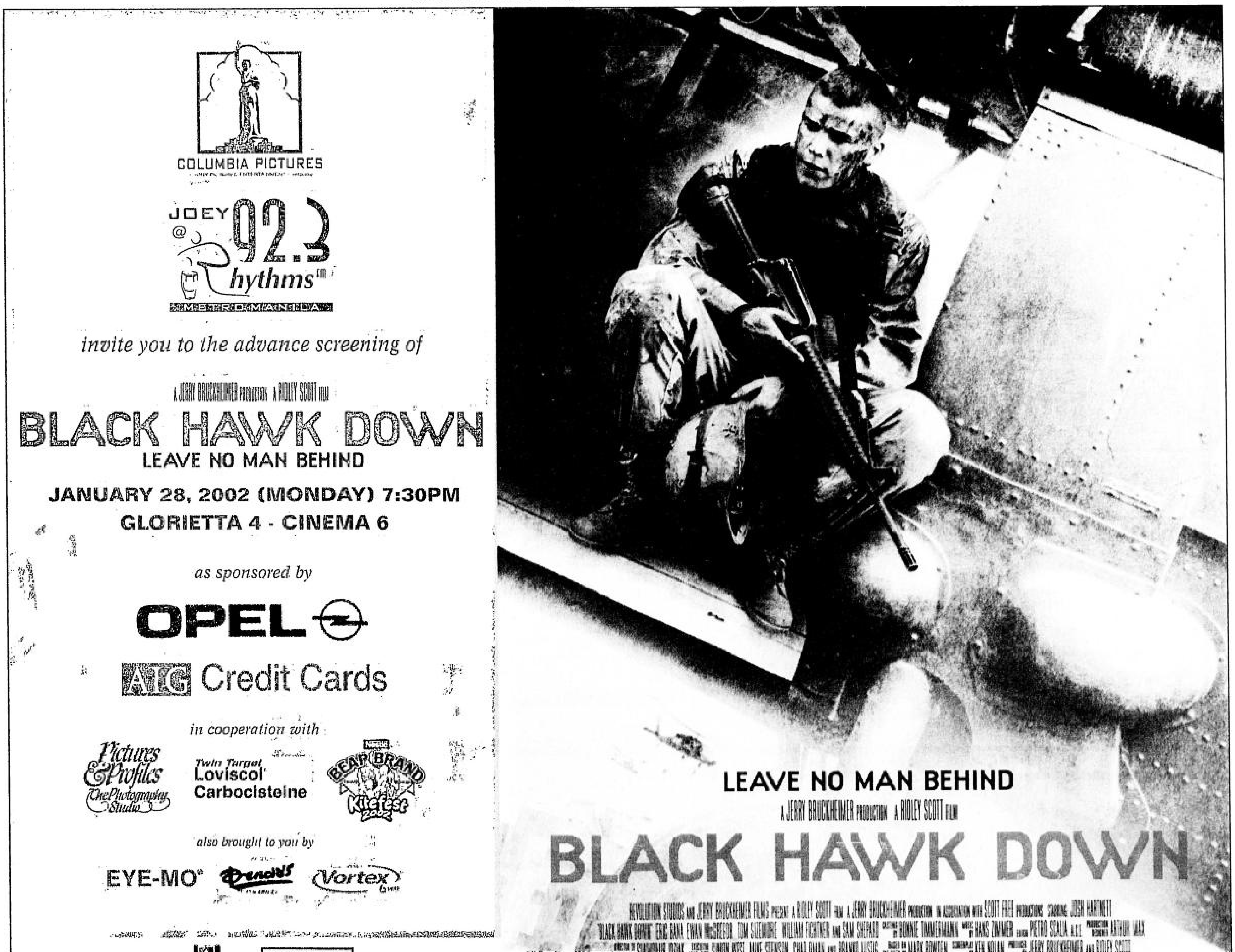
FANS of **Lea Salonga** can have a chance to chat with her.

Just type Lea and send it to 2328 (Globe) or 2444 (Smart) to receive trivia questions about Lea. Choose the correct answer from among the choices given. When you accumulate 50 points, you win a chance to chat with Lea on Feb. 2.

For more details, visit Lea's website at www.leasalonga.com

Feb. 2 will be Lea's last day in Manila before she flies back to Los Angeles the next day, Feb. 3.

Today, Jan. 27, is the last day of Atlantis Productions' "Proof." On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, she performs on the PICC stage in her Broadway concert, produced by Bayo, the garment line she is endorsing.



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2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 AMERICAN ADOBO — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4
1 THE OTHERS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 AMERICAN ADOBO — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN THX — In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CORKY ROMANO — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 ZOOLANDER — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 BEHIND ENEMY LINES — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

GREENBELT
1 .MOV - THE DIGITAL MOVIE FEST — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE OTHERS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 WEEKEND W/ POPS JAN. 25 & 26 Onstage 9:00 PM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN THX — In DS[illegible] SOUND
2 THE OTHERS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 AMERICAN ADOBO — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CORKY ROMANO — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 (SDDS) THE OTHERS
2 (SDDS) ZOOLANDER
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CORKY ROMANO
6 GOLD (SDDS) LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
9 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
10 AMERICAN ADOBO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 BUKO PANDAN
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285
1 CORKY ROMANO
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
4 BUKO PANDAN
5 THE OTHERS
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BURLESK KING
2 HUBOG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1
2 BUKO PANDAN
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BUKO PANDAN
A GIRL FEVER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
3 BUKO PANDAN
4 GIRL FEVER

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8583
1 (DOLBY) MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
5 CORKY ROMANO
6 AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS) THE OTHERS
9 (DOLBY) BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
4 (SDDS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 HUBOG
6 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8 BUKO PANDAN
9 BURLESK KING

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 AMERICAN ADOBO
4 CORKY ROMANO
5 (SDDS) THE OTHERS
6 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
7 (DOLBY) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8 BURLESK KING

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 CORKY ROMANO
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 AMERICAN ADOBO
5 (SDDS) BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson MEN'S
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Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 THE OTHERS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
5 THE OTHERS

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 CORKY ROMANO
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 BUKO PANDAN

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115
1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma
tel 079.2029
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS) AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 (DOLBY) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 WALANG IWANAN
2 GLADIATOR
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)
1 BURLESK KING
2 ON THE LINE
3 (DOLBY) ZOOLANDER
4 (DTS) ON THE LINE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 BUKO PANDAN
3 MY WIFE LOVER
4 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 (DTS) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 BUKO PANDAN
5 AMERICAN ADOBO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BUKO PANDAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BUKO PANDAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 BURLESK KING
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 BUKO PANDAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 LORD OF THE RINGS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4008
1 (DTS) MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BUKO PANDAN
2 MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
3 BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BURLESK KING
2 ZOOLANDER
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LORD OF THE RINGS
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
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4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 MAHAL KITA . . .
6 THE OTHERS
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 AMERICAN ADOBO
9 CORKY ROMANO
10 ZOOLANDER
THX

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 MAHAL KITA . . .
4 THE OTHERS
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 CORKY ROMANO
7 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

METRO EAST 632-9116-16 / 633-7641
1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 MAHAL KITA . . .
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ZOOLANDER

NOVALICHES 935-3229 to 31
1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 MAHAL KITA . . .
6 MAHAL KITA . . .
7 ZOOLANDER
8 AMERICAN ADOBO

IMUS (046) 471-0100
7 LORD OF THE RINGS
2
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 MAHAL KITA . . .
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 THE OTHERS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0458
1 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2 AMERICAN ADOBO
3 GLASS HOUSE
4 GIRL FEVER
5 ON THE LINE
6 SPY GAME

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1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 SPY GAME
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
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5 EARTHQUAKE
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	AMERICAN ADOBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CORKY ROMANO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE OTHERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	H'WAG KANG KIKIBO / ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ODEON-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ROBEN	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE / EARTHQUAKE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
REMAR-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CORKY ROMANO
CINEMA-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
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CINEMA-5	CORKY ROMANO
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8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9 ZOOLANDER
10 AMERICAN ADOBO

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5 BURLESK KING
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8 LORD OF THE RINGS

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Imaginative section highlights

"BEHIND Enemy Lines" is the story of a US Navy pilot whose plane is shot down after straying into enemy territory in Eastern Europe.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

He finds himself turned into a pawn in the high-stakes game of cold-war politics, and it sometimes looks like he'll never get rescued and flown to freedom.

John Moore's film starts out slowly, even tentatively, as it perhaps too carefully explains the political ramifications of the scarifying "survivor" and "fugitive" situation in which the pilot, **Chris Burnett**, soon finds himself.

Owen Wilson also initially appears to be an awkward choice for action-war-adventure movie leading man, since he often looks more bemused than tough and heroic and his nose is broken in two places.

Now, "character" noses aren't really no-no's for action heroes (think **John Wayne, Victor Mature, Marlon Brando**), but the shape of Wilson's own proboscis looks more pinched than the result of a barroom brawl or a gunfight at the OK Corral.

In any case, the feeling of discomfiture soon abates, as the movie's hard-action and high-tech scenes of pursuit and momentary capture hold viewers' attention.

The highlight is the long sequence in which Burnett's plane is tracked and eventually hit by two heat-seeking SAM ground-to-air missiles. The relentless way that they keep their focus on the plane despite the pilot's desperate moves to elude them is genuinely scary.

OWEN Wilson in "Behind Enemy Lines."

Another memorable high-tech scene employs top-secret radar that utilizes a satellite to zero in on Burnett himself as he runs away from the pursuing foe. This sequence shows that it's possible to "see" a single human being from a satellite orbiting around the earth.

We don't know if this is already science fact instead of fiction, but the sequence has a powerfully compelling effect on viewers—especially when shapes representing the pursuers are thrown in for good measure.

Even better, Wilson is made to fall among a pile of corpses, past victims of the cruel foe. The conceit here is that Burnett is hidden by the dead bodies, so the pursuers don't see him—but, since his body is warm, the satellite can still espy him.

Unfortunately, the rest of the movie isn't as memorable, especially after Burnett's commander, Admiral Reigart, enters the picture to agonize, Hamlet-like, over the urge to send helicopters to rescue his junior officer, vis-à-vis the need to take complex cold-war politics into consideration.

This military, political, personal and moral dilemma may read well on paper, but it's exceedingly verbal and tendentious onscreen. In any case, the movie does have some well-staged and imaginative action highlights to carry the day, so it remains an occasionally involving viewing experience.

Need for film preservation

LAURO J. Jocson's recent letter to this column zeroed in on the very urgent need to preserve our deteriorating Filipino film classics.

He ended his letter by asking about **Bert Avellana**'s "Sakay."

When he was alive, Avellana himself told us that he was looking for a print of that early film of his, but without success. So, it looks like the film will have to remain a much-admired movie in recollection . . .

On the other hand, some old movies can still be retrieved, and pioneering film studios like Sampaguita, LVN and Premiere are taking steps in this direction.

Other film buffs scour the TV movie channel listings for titles of old film classics that are screened on television from time to time, and tape copies thereof for their personal appreciation.

But we really need a big organization to bankroll a well-organized and—funded film retrieval and restoration campaign. If we restore 10 memorable old films a year, at some P700,000 per movie, that would be a major and affordable contribution to our national film culture. Any organization interested?

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BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	CORKY ROMANO - P13 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:40, 3:00

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Columbia Pictures' BLACK HAWK DOWN is the true story of elite American soldiers on a mission to stop a ruthless Somalian warlord in 1993.
Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."
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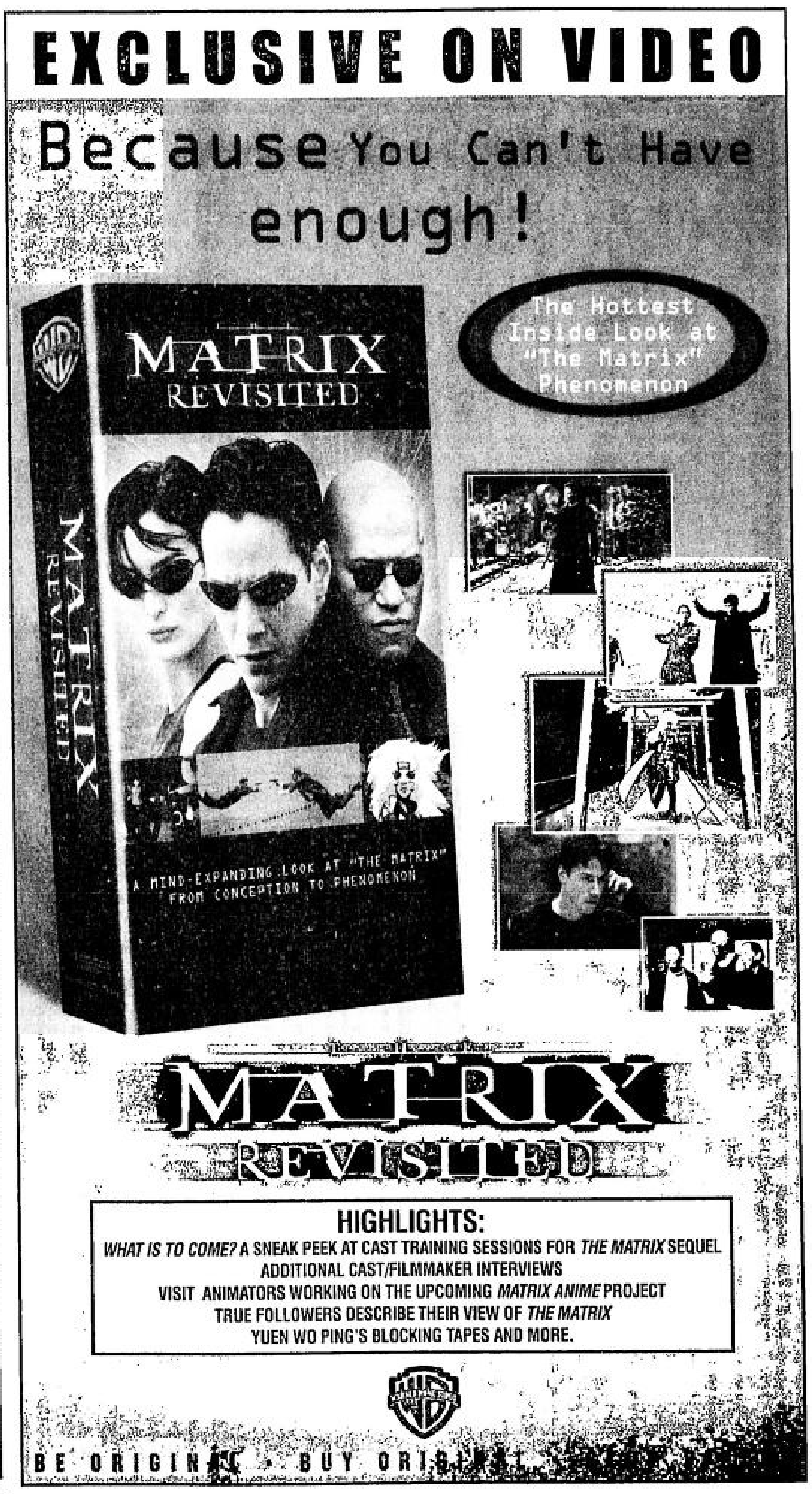

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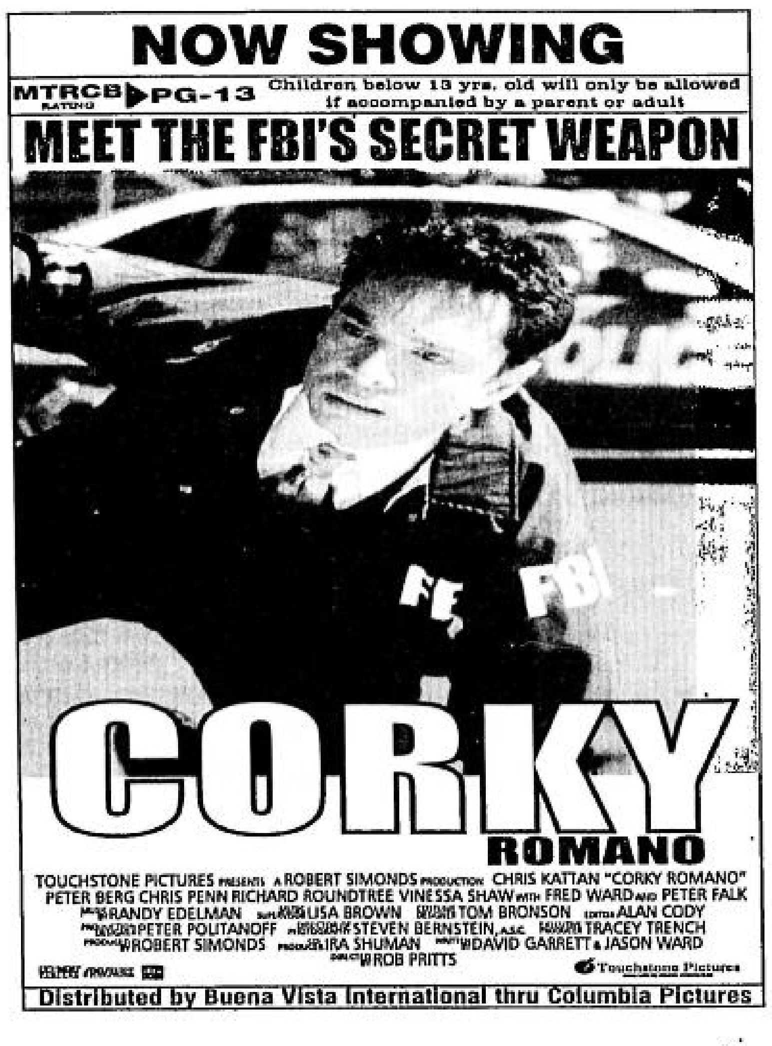

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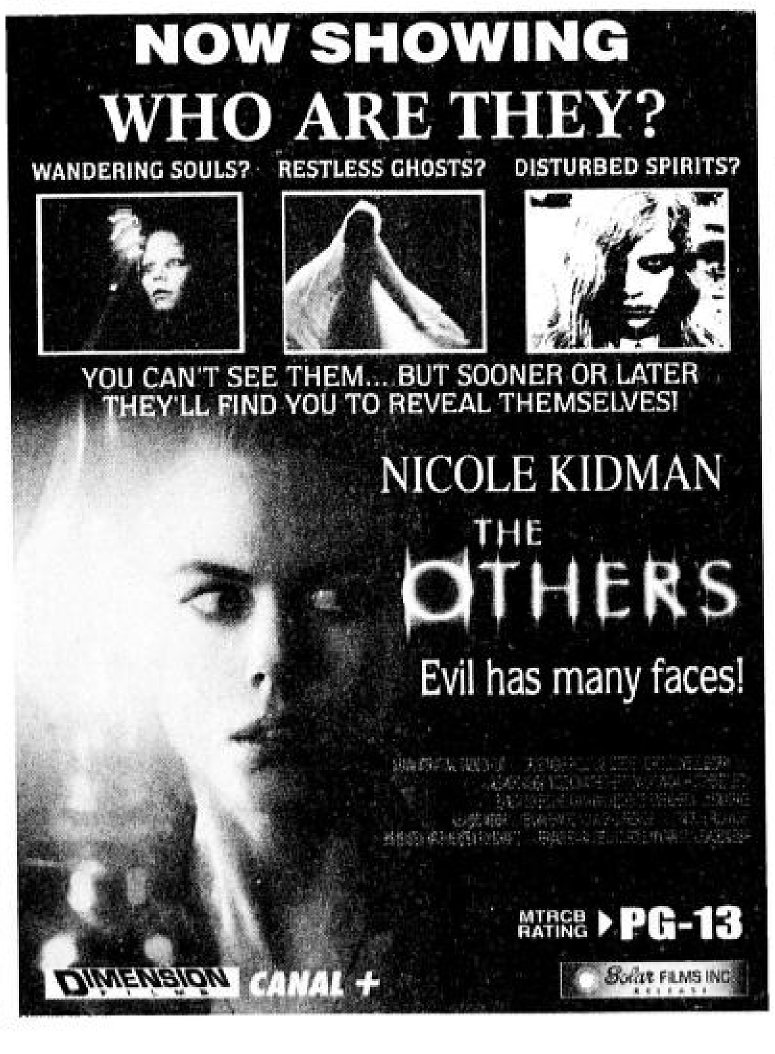

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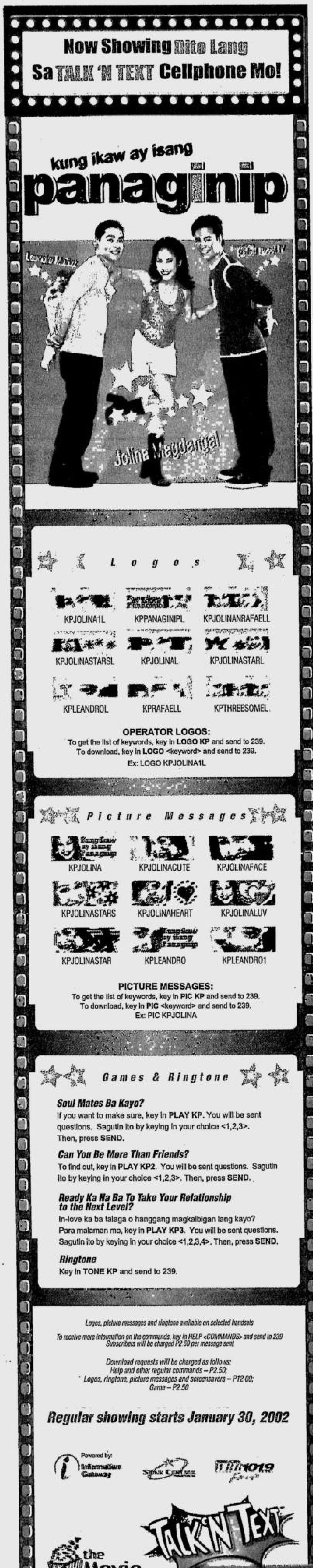

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Robert Redford to receive honorary Oscar at 64

LOS ANGELES—Veteran Hollywood star, director and independent movie champion Robert Redford is to be awarded an honorary Oscar at this year's Academy Awards ceremony.

Former screen idol Redford, 64, will receive a special version of the movie industry's most prized honor in recognition of his 40-year career in movies and his contribution to the development of non-mainstream film making.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will present Redford with a citation marked: "Robert Redford—actor, director, producer, creator of Sundance, inspiration to independent and innovative filmmakers everywhere."

The honorary award, given out for "exceptional distinction" in filmmaking, will mark the first time that Redford has taken home a golden statuette from the Oscars, despite three nominations.

Redford, who began acting in 1962, has starred in generational classics including western "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" in 1969, "The Sting" in 1973 and the 1976 Watergate drama "All the President's Men."

In 1981, he launched his Sundance Film Festival to give young and unknown filmmakers, traditionally snubbed by Hollywood's major studios and distributors, a chance to show off and sell their movies.

"Bob's dedication to independent film making has had an enormously positive impact on the motion picture industry since he created Sundance 20 years ago," said Academy President Frank Pierson.

Young filmmakers will for years to come continue to "benefit from the training that his institute provides and the world-class showcase that his festival offers," he added.

Redford, who was nominated for a best actor Oscar for his role in "The Sting," turned his hand to other aspects of the movie business after becoming one of Hollywood's biggest stars.

In 1980, he directed his first picture "Ordinary People," starring Donald Sutherland, Mary Tyler Moor and Timothy Hutton, and went on to pick up two Oscar nominations for directing and producing his film "Quiz Show" in 1994.

At this year's Oscar ceremony in March, another veteran actor Sydney Poitier will also be awarded an honorary Academy Award.

Former recipients have included directors Stanley Donen and Federico Fellini as well as actress Deborah Kerr. *AFP*

REDFORD, who began acting in 1962, has starred in generational classics.

Doing some good in other people's lives

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

A COUPLE of nights ago, I read in one sitting "He Sees You When You're Sleeping," the Christmas-themed novel of mother-daughter tandem **Mary** and **Carol Higgins** Clark. Last year, the **Clarks** came up with "Deck the Halls."

In the same way that I really enjoyed **John Grisham**'s "Skipping Christmas," the new book gave me a lighthearted respite, with just the right amount of motivation and without any preaching.

The premise is very simple. Sterling Brooks has been in the waiting room of heaven for 46 years. The heavenly council had decided that he has to do some good in the life of the little girl Marissa before he can be allowed entry.

Why was Sterling made to wait so long? Because although he hadn't been a sinner of the "mortal" variety, he had been only concerned about himself, never exerting any effort to help out those in need around him. "His was a sin of omission, not commission," the Clarks write.

Aren't we all guilty of that? I realized that I do tend to become so self-absorbed that I fail to reach out and do some good in the lives of others.

Every week, kids, mostly preschool toddlers, come over to my studio, after nagging their parents who are lucky enough to have relatives working in ABS-CBN, to watch how "Game KNB" is taped. I'm lucky in the sense that I see how I'm able to spread some cheer just by posing for photos, bantering a bit, and doling out a few hugs and lots of kisses. But of course that isn't much in the scheme of things.

Ai-Ai's altruism

I recently read in In Style magazine the question, "When was the last time you did some good in another person's life without reaching for your checkbook?" That's become a new goal in my life.

Last Friday, my admiration for **Ai-Ai de las Alas** increased even further after she gave a short performance for my mom during my mom's birthday lunch. My auntie **Maur** (my dad's older sister and my mom's favorite sister-in-law) was congratulating Ai-Ai when I overheard just how genuinely altruistic my favorite comedienne is.

Auntie Maur, who is very active in her charity work, was telling Ai-Ai that she really appreciated all the effort that Ai-Ai gave in personally visiting ailing and aged patients, helping to feed them, give their medicines, and even bathing them. Auntie Maur and Ai-Ai are both active in helping out Mother Teresa's sisters.

What's most impressive is that Ai-Ai has never publicized her good works.

Demeaning depiction

Remember a few weeks back when I wrote about liking "The Diary of V," which I had just started reading? I was taken aback when I read "The Breakup," the second of the three-book series. A lot of pages were devoted to Valerie's discovery that her husband Roger had a hidden, bigamous "web-ordered" bride named Mary from a website. Take note of how crass the name is, CLIT, which stands for Classy Ladies International Trade.

Although this book series is a work of fiction, I'm sure that author **Debra Kent** did a lot of research since she included specific cultural details and she gave geographical information about our Mt. Province.

The fictional owner of the website is named H. Wilhem Prost, who said he was "the proud owner" of a Filipina bride. Let me give you an excerpt of what was written in the supposed website's home page. "Their greatest pleasure is to serve, whether in the kitchen or in the bedroom. These are women who truly appreciate Western men, who crave the comfort of a traditional, domestic life. All they want in this world is a Western man who will treat them like a lady . . ."

Mail-order bride websites have been in the news recently, and although this was a fictionalized account, I couldn't help but feel so much anger mixed with pity, for the demeaning way we Filipinas are portrayed in the Western world.

Sunday INQUIRER magazine Centrum Complete from A to Zinc* present

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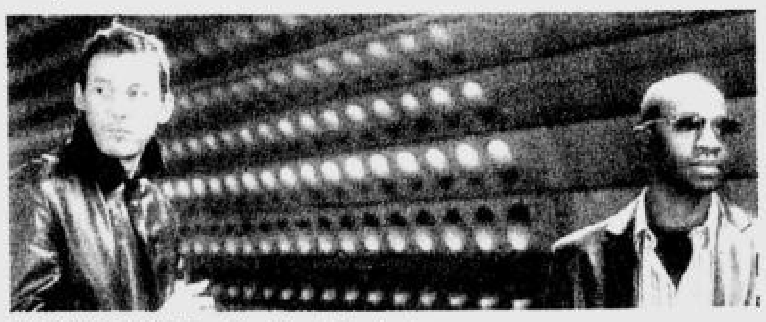

LIGHTHOUSE Family. Hard Rock show

SHOWS

Side A at Suburbia

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For inquiries and reservations, call 450-1685 or 86.

The Hunks at the FAT

HAVE a rendezvous with The Hunks as they talk and sing about love—and perhaps sex—in a sizzling Valentine concert, "Hunks: First Time Mo? The Virgin Valentine Concert," Feb. 14, 8 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater.

After a series of sold out-concerts here and abroad, The Hunks this time dare to conquer the Folk Arts Theater with their explosive performance.

Hear and see them gyrate onstage as they sing and dance to some of the hottest tunes like "La Vida Loca," "Smooth," "She-Bang," "Just A Gigolo," "We Will Rock You" and many more.

Special guests are Ai-Ai de las Alas, Kristine Hermosa, Patricia Javier, John Lapus, Maxine and Rica Peralejo.

Stage direction is by Johnny Manahan, musical direction by Homer Flores and script by Rondel Lindayag and Joel Mercado.

The concert is a production of JLF Organization. For tickets, call 634-773 or 638-4243.

Lighthouse Family

LIGHTHOUSE Family, one of the biggest-selling UK groups in the late '90s, bounces back in the music industry with their latest album, "Whatever Gets You Through the Day," under MCA Universal. Carrier track of the album is "Free."

The album will be released in time for the forthcoming visit of Lighthouse Family to Manila. They will do a two-night concert at Hard Rock Café, Feb. 2 and 3.

Lead vocalist Tunde Baiyewu will also promote the group's two latest hits, "Free" and "Run" in top-rated TV shows and FM stations in the country.

Lighthouse Family has come out with highly successful albums—"Ocean Drive" in 1995 and "Postcard from Heaven" in 1997—which produced unforgettable chart-toppers that include "Question of Faith," "Rain Cloud," "High," "When I Was Younger" and "Lifted."

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Gov't prods banks to lower loan rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is disappointed with the high lending rates that banks continue to charge and has vowed to use its two state-run universal lenders to influence a downtrend in interest rates to 10 percent or even lower.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has instructed Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines to "immediately bring down their lending rates."

DBP president Remedios Macalincag and Land Bank president Margarito Teves have assured Camacho that they have started to lend selectively at rates lower than 10 percent although their average lending rates remained at 12.5 percent.

"I have instructed the two government financial institutions to bring down their rates and hopefully, the private banks would follow suit so that the benefits of fiscal and monetary easing would be felt by small borrowers," the finance secretary said.

Camacho said banks have no reason to keep on charging high rates to borrowers when the domestic interest rates have fallen significantly as reflected by the 81-day treasury bill yield.

The benchmark borrowing rate of the government has dropped to 7.594 percent, its lowest in 15 years and the Bureau of Treasury believed that the 91-day debt paper rate could fall to as low as 7 percent in the coming auctions. Banks normally use the 91-day rate as the basis in pricing their loans.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Piilipinas showed that as of last Friday, the average lending rate being charged by the country's 44 operating lenders stood at 12.72 percent. This was still slightly higher than what banks were supposed to charge using a formula they have committed to observe.

Banks have agreed to charge borrowers no more than five percentage points over the 91-day treasury bill yield. BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had reminded the Bankers Association of the Philippines of its commitment.

While most banks were within the 12.5-percent average, a few were still charging as much as 15.5 percent, among them Traders Royal Bank followed by Global Bank with 14.5 percent, and Asia United Bank and United Overseas Bank with 14 percent.

HSBC registered the lowest lending rate of 10.85 percent. Sources said the actual lending rates that a bank charges borrowers, particularly the smaller companies and individuals, were much higher than what it reports to the central bank. However, prime lending rates being applied to multinational and big corporations are very close to treasury bill yields.

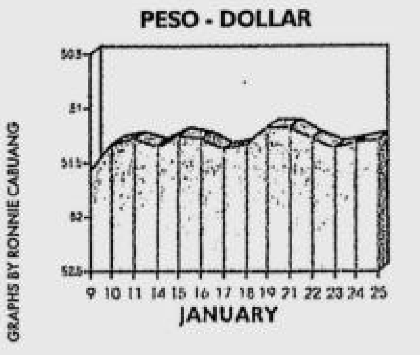
Camacho said a 10-percent lending rate or even lower would make sense.

"Even the credit risk has not increased. If at all, it should have gone down as we have seen even with the pricing of sovereign

GOV'T/ B9

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.295 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 25,2002

¥134.68 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 25, 2002

GOLD: $279/279.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 25, 2002

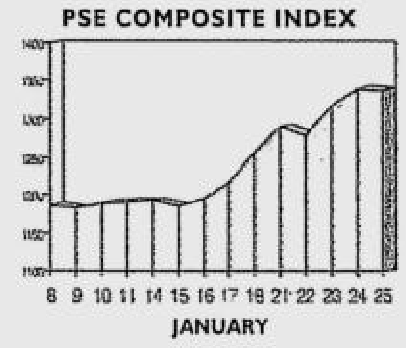
CURRENCIES

Jan. 25, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.139861	1.000000	51.3640
Japan	Yen	0.008458	0.007420	0.3811
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622592	1.423500	73.1167
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146324	0.128370	6.5936
Switzerland	Franc	0.679864	0.596445	30.6358
Canada	Dollar	0.711168	0.623908	32.0464
Singapore	Dollar	0.619827	0.543774	27.9304
Australia	Dollar	0.592136	0.519481	26.6826
Bahrain	Dinar	3.023665	2.652661	136.2513
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303963	0.266667	13.6971
Brunei	Dollar	0.617810	0.542005	27.8395
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025824	0.022655	1.1637
UAE	Dirham	0.310419	0.272331	13.9880
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000757	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877300	45.0616
Brazil	Real	0.476929	0.418410	21.4912
Denmark	Kroner	0.134594	0.118079	6.0650
India	Rupee	0.023649	0.020747	1.0656
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300042	0.263227	13.5204
Mexico	New Peso	0.124889	0.109565	5.6277
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486704	0.426985	21.9317
Norway	Kroner	0.126878	0.11131	5.7173
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019014	0.016681	0.8568
South Africa	Rand	0.101411	0.088968	4.5698
Sweden	Kroner	0.108199	0.094923	4.8756
Syria	Pound	0.022219	0.019493	1.0012
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032586	0.028588	1.4684
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001494	0.001311	0.0673

STOCK MARKET

Optimism remains high for local stock market



(See stock market report on Page B6)

THE PROSPECTS of the local stock market remain bright despite some profit-taking late last week, analysts said.

"There is renewed confidence on the part of foreign investors that this government will begin to do its job very, very well and so the (optimistic) mood is back," said Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman and Co., a long-established local brokerage.

"The Philippines is alive again," Ackerman said, citing interest particularly among foreign fund managers.

The market rose over much of last week as more US troops arrived in Mindanao, signaling the impending start of joint US-Philippine military operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group whose rash of abductions and bombings have become a national embarrassment.

Eventually some 660 US soldiers will be deployed as part of the operations against the Abu Sayyaf, which is believed to have links to the al-Qaida network of suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose by 6.3 percent or 79.67 points week-on-week to close at 1,337.15 points on Friday.

Average daily volume rose to 1.29 billion shares worth P1.063 billion from 737 million shares worth P530.8 million last week.

AFP

Economists herald end to 11-month US recession

GREENSPAN

WASHINGTON—Economists are already heralding an end to the US recession that began last March, although the outlook for the job market remains murky, with some analysts predicting rising unemployment during the recovery.

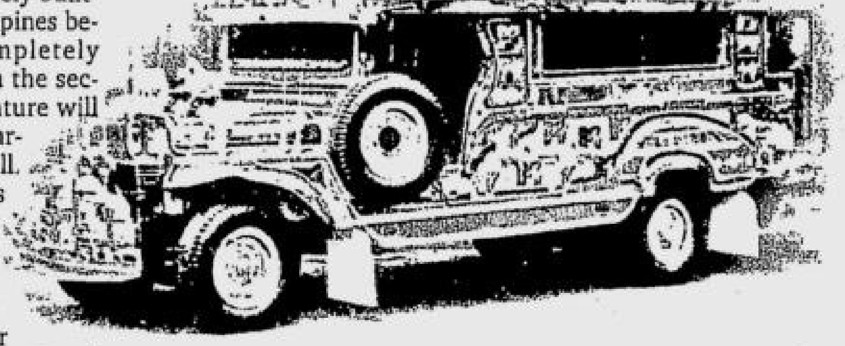
A slew of economic data seems to be pointing toward recovery, from the Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators, to the trend of diminishing weekly jobless claims.

(Story on page B13.)

₱1.5-B DEAL

Firm to export jeepneys to Africa

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



FRANCISCO Motors Corp. has struck a P1.5-billion manufacturing deal with a diversifying African mining company which will bring the Philippines' pride—the jeepney—on African roads.

FMC senior assistant vice president Roland Francisco reported that his company has agreed to establish an assembly plant for jeepneys in Sierra Leone, West Africa, in partnership with Sateemax, one of the biggest gold and diamond miners in Africa.

Francisco said FMC would send at least 300 Filipino workers to train Africans in building jeepneys, a distinct Filipino vehicle originally derived from surplus US Army jeeps that were converted by ingenious entrepreneurs into passenger vehicles with a seating capacity for at least eight shortly in the post-war era.

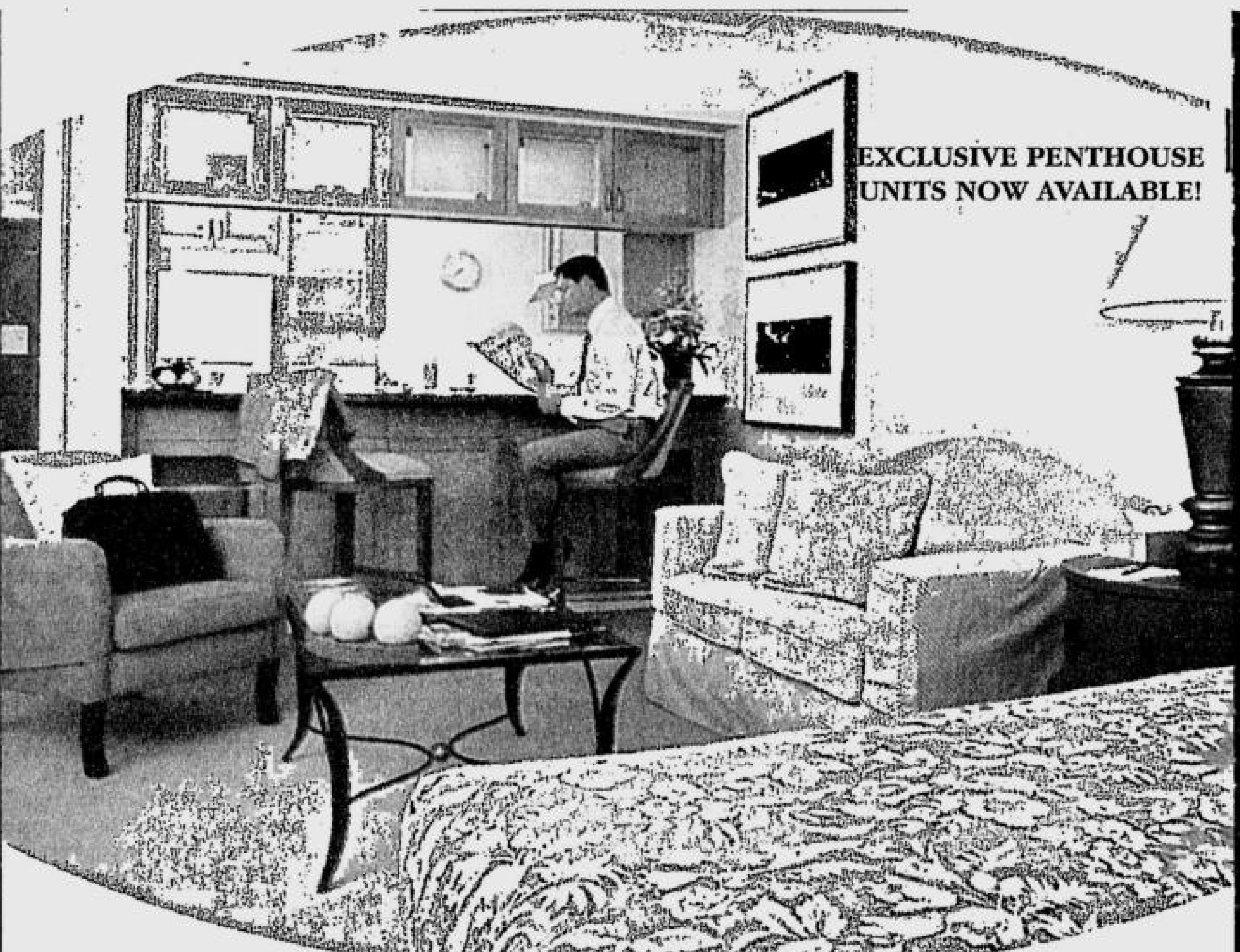
Sateemax-FMC (SL) Ltd. will initially import completely built-up units from the Philippines before shifting to completely knocked down units on the second year. The joint venture will go into parts manufacturing on the third year. Full assembly operation is expected to start in 2005. The partners expect sales of P300 million this year, rising to P600 million next year with turnover of between 50 and 100 units a month.

FMC used to compete with Sarao Motors as the king of Philippine jeepneys in the 1970s. But its jeepney production was scaled down significantly through the years after FMC decided to move up to the assembly of Mazda pickup trucks.

FMC was forced to return to the jeepney business in 2000 when it had to abort its Mazda line because its partner, Mazda Corp. of Japan, stopped sending the Filipino assembler with new models for the B-series pickups in 1999 to allow Ford Motor Co. to introduce the Ranger in the country. Ford has a 30-percent share in Mazda and the B-series and Ranger pickups are basically the same model under different badges.

But the jeepney-making business is now considered a sunset industry as Japanese-made Asian utility vehicles displace jeepneys from Philippine roads.

FIRM/ B3



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Petrochem players told to show financial muscle

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II wants local petrochemical producers to first show the color of their money before the government starts lobbying in Asean for the extension of the tariff protection on the petrochemical industry.

A government source said Roxas had insisted that proponents of the $700-million naphtha cracker plant should put up at least $200 million in escrow to show proof of their capability to bankroll the project.

Roxas' insistence on having the project proponents come up with the "show money" for government protection has put him on a collision course with Energy Secretary Vincent Perez (who has endorsed the naphtha cracker project) and the state-owned PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. (which is spearheading the naphtha cracker development).

Perez was responsible in getting the Brunei government and Petronas of Malaysia to show strong interest in taking equity positions in the naphtha cracker project. PNOC-PDC has committed to take a 30 percent stake in the cracker.

Local petrochemical makers have earlier urged Roxas to start lobbying in Asean for the retention of the 15-percent duty on polymers beyond 2003 even though the development plan for a naphtha cracker has yet to be firmed up after years of planning. Duties on polymers such as polypropylene and polyethylene, which are produced by local petrochemical firms, are scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2003.

The petrochemical players—makers of polymers—argued that they need protection now to ensure that they would still be around when the naphtha cracker starts commercial operations in 2004. Since the cracker will produce the monomers used to make plastic resins, it was pointless to build a cracker if the polymer producers fold up due to the influx of cheap imports

But Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said this was unfair because the government would practically protect an industry even before it started operations and there was no assurance that the naphtha cracker would be set up.

Asean members have an option to exempt some of their industries from the planned reduction in duties under the Asean protocol agreement in order to strengthen their operations before competing in an open market. So far, only Malaysia has exercised this option to protect its automobile industry.

Yuseco seen to submit Unitrust rehab plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GROUP of former Unitrust Development Bank president Francis Yuseco Jr. is planning to submit this week a rehabilitation plan that calls for the infusion of P200 million in fresh capital into the closed thrift bank.

In an interview with reporters last week, Yuseco said that his group has tied up with a foreign group and a local group to come up with the P200 million in fresh capital for Unitrust. The amount should be over and above the advances of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and the residual value of the bank's shares.

Shareholders of Unitrust were given by PDIC 90 days from the bank's closure last Jan. 4 to submit a rehabilitation plan.

The plan may be approved by the PDIC provided it was approved by at least 67 percent of the bank's shareholders.

PDIC has started to service the claims of Unitrust depositors with deposits of P100,000 and below. Nazareno said that out of Unitrust's about 18,000 depositors, only about 400 had deposits worth more than the PDI-insured amount. The total amount of their deposits, however, accounted for about half of the bank's total deposits amounting to P258 million.

In another development, a source in the banking industry identified Asiatrust Bank and Planters Development Bank as two of the three thrift banks that were keen on acquiring Unitrust, currently under PDIC receivership.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno earlier said that three thrift banks have written PDIC expressing their interest in Unitrust.

Unitrust has 13 branches and about P700 million in assets. It was closed early this month by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as soon as the bank's management declared a bank holiday. This came after the massive resignation of the bank's officers and personnel that triggered a bank run that involved some P138 million on the third week of December.

Pasay's insurance cartel

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MY client rents out her two-story building in Pasay City as a display area of a handicraft exporter. Like everyone else doing business in Pasay, she has to get a mayor's permit, which is up for renewal every January.

Applying for a mayor's permit, or renewing it, used to be no big deal. You filled out a simple form and paid the fee. Not anymore. One of the requirements is a comprehensive general liability policy. The CGL policy pays for any legal liability that the insured may incur in the operation of his business. For example, the policy will pay for the liability of the owner of the Ozone Disco in Quezon City that burned down about five years ago resulting in the death of over a hundred customers. In fact, that fire prompted city councils in Metro Manila to require practically everyone needing a mayor's permit to put up a CGL policy. My lawyer tells me that the CGL requirement is well within the lawmaking powers of the council under the local government code.

The implementing rules are the problem. In Pasay, as in other places, the policy can be taken only from "accredited" companies. This is Pasay's insurance cartel. The city council has arrayed a cartel against the very citizenry the council is bound to protect.

Although there are 98 domestic and 12 foreign companies, only nine domestic companies are accredited. None of the top 15 domestic companies have been anointed. On the other hand, some of the accredited nine are among the smallest companies.

One would think that, since the cartel has the hammerlock on the business, the policy should be inexpensive. Wrong. The premiums are at least twice the market rates. I guess the cartel has to take care of certain, ahem, extraordinary expenses at the Pasay City Hall.

In other cities, you buy the policy on the sidewalk outside City Hall premises. In Pasay, you fill out the application form, wait for the policy to be typed out and signed, and pay the premium right in one corner of the overcrowded licensing section. I was there on deadline day and there was total bedlam in that corner.

I am all in favor of promoting insurance. A statutory requirement for businesses to have a comprehensive general liability policy is one welcome way to push insurance consciousness among the citizenry. However, when the city council prescribes that the policy can be bought only from "accredited" companies, the citizenry becomes the victim.

The businessman winds up paying a very high premium. This extra cost of operations will have to be passed on to the consumer. Then, if there is claim, there is no one, least of all the city councilmen, to help out the businessman in negotiating with the accredited insurance company. Here is where the insurance agent or broker comes in. But Pasay does not want any agent or broker around the premises.

In Pasay, even the owner of a *sari-sari* store of less than 20 square meters in area is required to put up a comprehensive general liability policy. Worse, he pays the same premium as the fellow who owns a disco or bar or nightclub.

The policy should be required only from businesses exposed to the risk of third party liability claims. If the city council is interested, I am prepared to give a list of those businesses. In fact, out of the goodness of my heart I am willing to provide the council with a set of comprehensive guidelines.

What happened to my client? She refused to buy the policy from that corner of the license section. She asked me to arrange one for her. I did it with one of the biggest companies around, more than twice as big as the "accredited" companies combined. As of this writing, I have not heard from her. If the license section does not accept the policy, I will have another story to tell.

Japan group bags ₱3.2-B port project in Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A Japanese consortium bagged the contract for the construction of the P3.2-billion Mindanao Container Port Terminal in Misamis Oriental.

Misamis Oriental Vice Governor Miguel de Jesus said the provincial government decided to award the contract to the Mitsubishi Kawasaki and Toyo group of companies, after the Japanese consortium submitted the lowest bid for the construction of the project.

"The construction will start next month. We are already prepared for this, including the money," he said.

De Jesus said the Mindanao Port, which is inside the Phividec Industrial Estate in Tagoloan town, was slated for completion by 2004.

Jaime Pacampara, chief of the Infrastructure Division at the National Economic and Development Authority regional office here said the project was conceptualized in 1999 yet.

"Imagine this project was processed in 1999 and the construction would start next month. Perhaps the government saw the urgency of this project to be completed soon especially when the economy is slowing down," he said.

He said once completed, the port, which has a wharf area of 800 linear meters, could boost the economic activities in Mindanao.

Pacampara said it would also shorten the duration of moving cargoes from Mindanao to Manila.

"The traders could save time, money, resources and effort once the Mindanao Container Port Terminal is operational in 2004," he said. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cooperatives tapping ADB, World Bank for financing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE 119-STRONG Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association has formed a financing company that will handle its members' funding needs.

The group is currently in talks with the Asian Development Bank for a loan of $50 million to $120 million for its seed money.

Philreca president Rosalino Culalic said the newly formed Rural Electric Cooperatives Financing Corp. was scheduled to present today to ADB officials its business plans that would be the basis for the approval of the loan.

"The ADB loan is basically for commercial and competitive ventures, which means that the 80 (money-earning) members will initially benefit from the loan," he told the INQUIRER.

The other 29 cooperatives that are not as profitable as the 80 will also be able to tap the fund later, he added.

Culalic explained that Philreca was engaging the ADB not only as a loan provider but also as an equity holder in the financing corporation.

"This is also what we are doing with other funding sources that we are tapping," he said.

The Philreca president said he also was hopeful that the financing company would be able to tap another $50 million to $100 million worth of loans from the World Bank's International Financing Corp.

"We also have a commitment for another $4million to $6 million in funds from the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association of the United States," Culalic said.

The cooperatives have also secured a P3-billion credit line from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

"We will be able to draw down from this by May," Culalic said.

In an earlier interview, he said the country's cooperatives needed funds to upgrade their systems and acquire new facilities including poles, wires and transformers, and computers.

Culalic said the move was aimed at helping these cooperative become more competitive in an open market.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act mandates the opening to full competition of the cooperatives' franchise areas by 2006.

Culalic said the cooperatives were currently serving a total of about 5.5 million households across the country.

GOINGS-ON

Best retail bank

UNION Bank of the Phils. was adjudged the best retail bank in the Philippines for 2001 by The Asian Banker Journal, an international banking publication.

The Asian Banker Journal in its latest issue, cited UBP, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, for its "impressive and successful transition from a traditional two-product bank (deposit taking and lending) to a multi-product financial services company that leverages technology."

The bank's strategy of launching new products, investing in brand building and spending on customer acquisition, was key to its success, the publication said.

Innovations that are expected to boost UBP's growth in Internet banking, according to The Asian Banker Journal, include the move to become the first in the Philippines to allow depositors access to their balances and other products and to make payments online.

Best bank in foreign exchange

STANDARD Chartered Bank clinched the top spot in FX Week's annual Best Banks Survey 2001. It was selected the best bank in foreign exchange in Asia Pacific, the best bank in foreign exchange in emerging Asian currencies and the best bank in foreign exchange in African/Middle Eastern currencies.

FX Week's seventh annual survey of the global foreign exchange industry, their biggest survey yet undertaken, compiled votes from 906 market participants from around the world. Breaking down the responses into three categories—banks, corporates and institutions, Standard Chartered achieved its best bank rankings from the votes cast by respondents and the points accumulated. For each of the three awards, Standard Chartered consistently ranked among the top three banks voted for by each category of respondents.

Dr. Ned Echanis : The Dean Who Practices What She Teaches

Dr. Erlinda "Ned" Echanis takes on a new role as Dean of UP's College of Business Administration

According to recent statistical data, one of the most popular courses amongst students in the Philippines today is Business Administration. This is a clear indication that the youth today see the value of entrepreneurship and financial management as necessary tools for economic growth.

Fortunately for the University of the Philippines, they have the luxury of picking from its treasure trove of supremely capable administrators a dean ready to guide its College of Business Administration and its students towards the development of more entrepreneurs and financial managers. Last August 1, 2001 Dr. Erlinda "Ned" Echanis, a highly regarded luminary, took on the mantle as Dean of UP's College of Business Administration.

Unlike other members of the academe, Dean Echanis has had extensive experience in the corporate world. After graduating from UP with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration-Accounting Major (cum laude), and successfully hurdling the CPA board, she worked for such renowned firms like Procter and Gamble, Phils., Commercial Bank and Trust Co. (now Bank of the Philippine Islands) and even the Union Bank of California. Presently, she is the president of Mayer Consultants, Inc.

After coming back home from her stint in California, Dr. Echanis headed their family's publishing business in the early 70's. She, however, eventually realized that her true calling was not in the rough and tumble world of corporate finance but in the intellectually stimulating world of the academe. Dr. Echanis started as an Instructor IV at the University of the Philippines, the lowliest level for any teacher there. Having obtained her masters and doctorate degrees, and earning a reputation for her excellent administrative capabilities, she progressed as an administrator and became department chairman in 1985. She then moved on as the director of the doctoral program of the College of Business Administration in 1994. Eventually, she became Vice-President for Planning and Finance of the entire university in 1999. Realizing that the greater challenge is not just ensuring the fiscal soundness of the university but in forming minds and challenging intellect, she took on the task of deanship of the College of Business Administration in August 2001.

Contrary to the view of most people that members of the academe are far removed from the real world, Dean Echanis asserts that, "I am still part of the financial world. When you are teaching (finance) you cannot detach yourself from the financial world. There is no way you can teach finance or accounting without being abreast of what's going on. We bring the outside world inside the classroom." Dean Echanis is able to continually immerse herself in the world of finance through her involvements with the Development Center for Finance, where she is developing an examination for financial analysts to ensure investor protection, the FINEX Research and Development Foundation, Inc. as well as her consultancy projects. She has likewise co-written various books and published articles on finance and investment management.

But perhaps the best evidence that she is still very much a player in the financial arena is the fact that she herself invests in and rides with the ups and downs of the Philippine capital market. Realizing that she only has a few hours during the day to attend to the one hundred and one things, she needs help in managing her investment portfolio. Fortunately, given her knowledge and exposure, she knows she can turn to mutual funds for her investing needs.

Mutual funds is a relatively new investment concept in the Philippines. In simple terms, a mutual fund is an investment company that pools money from different investors. The pooled money of the investors are managed and invested in a wide range of securities by professional fund managers. Through mutual funds, investors are able to participate in the financial market without having to constantly involve themselves in its daily results. Also, they benefit from the collective wisdom of the professional fund managers who ensure that the areas of investment entered into by the funds are considerably stable and profitable.

Would Filipinos invest in mutual funds though? In Dr. Echanis' view, Filipinos would invest in mutual funds for as long as they are properly educated about it. She cites that Filipinos are not afraid to invest, as proven by their aggressive investment in property development, just before the Asian economic crisis of 1997. Therefore, if Filipinos find out about the benefits of mutual funds and the rewards they can get from it, Dr. Echanis feels that Filipinos would be willing to invest their money and entrust them to a mutual fund investment manager.

Asked why invest in mutual funds at all, she advises "I've always believed in saving. It is not how much you make but how much you save. Don't spend all that you make; if you can invest some, set it aside."

Dr. Echanis also points out that investing in mutual funds is very beneficial primarily because the money the investors put in are managed by professionals who have expertise, knowledge and skills to decide what and when to buy and sell various types of securities. They will invest and monitor your money for you. She states that, "for professionals like us, we don't have the time. If we follow the market then we would have less time for work. I believe in focusing. I want to spend my time teaching and planning the affairs of the school. Monitoring of investments is better done by professionals. If you know (how to manage your investments), even if you have time, why do it? Better leave it to the experts."

She of course emphasizes that in choosing which mutual fund to invest in, ensuring the integrity and technical knowledge of the investment managers is of utmost importance. When asked which mutual fund she invests in, she readily answers, "Sun Life Prosperity Funds." She relates that "I respect Sun Life. It has a good reputation worldwide. I believe in the management and the firm." Of the three mutual funds managed by Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., namely the Sun Life Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund, the Sun Life Prosperity Bond Fund, and the Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund, she chose to invest in the balanced fund. "I decided 50% bonds, 50% stocks from the beginning. It's a good balance."

With a dean actively engaged in the financial world, it is no wonder that she has taken on the challenge of transforming the programs in the college to make them more responsive to the times. Presently, she actively invites finance companies and product managers to make presentations in her classes. She says that, "If they can't convince the students, how can they convince the public?" As for her future plans for the college, she says that she intends to mesh some IT courses into the accountancy program, considering the increasing demand for accountants with IT background. She likewise wants to create a synergy between technical and practical courses in the MS Finance program. She is even looking into improving the faculty profile by encouraging the present members to take further studies, while maintaining a good percentage for faculty members who are practitioners.

Dynamic plans for a dynamic person who is immersed in reality yet adept on the theories, Dean Echanis sees a greater challenge for the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration. A greater future lies ahead. With her at the helm, the future can only be brighter.

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ADVT.

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From page B1

Francisco said the African deal would inject new life into the jeepney industry as well as provide FMC with a new lifeline to continue its operations. "These developments will significantly support our efforts to pursue our case against Mazda," Francisco said. FMC is seeking $35 million in compensation from Mazda in exchange for dropping the Filipino firm's opposition to Ford's continued sale of the Ranger in the country.

Despite the setback with Mazda, FMC continued to seek foreign partnerships.

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NISSEI	Canon	OTHERS

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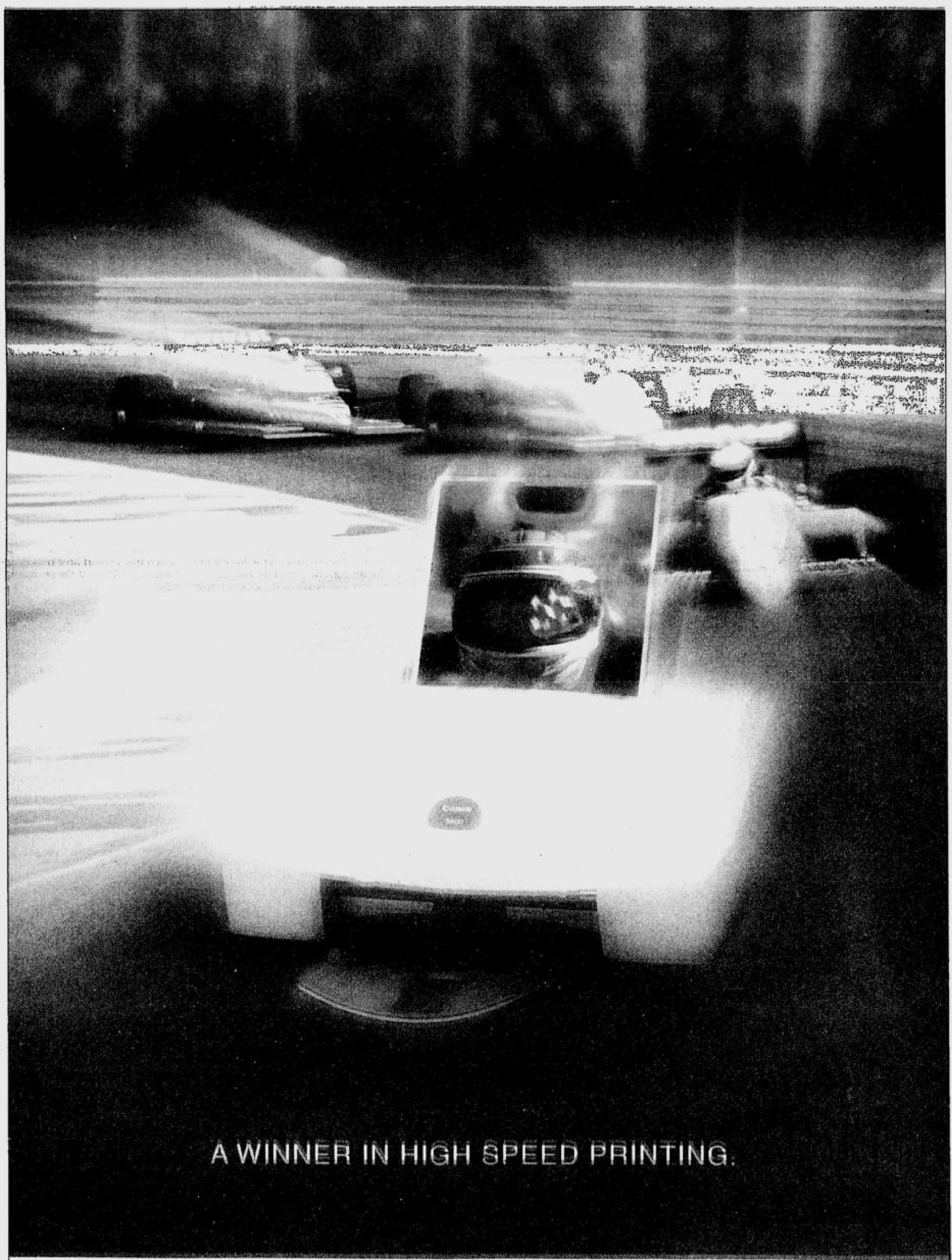

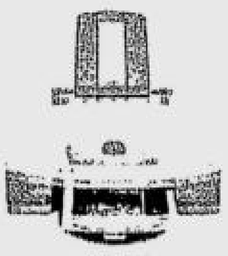

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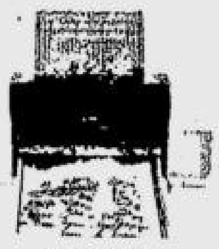

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FOREIGN INTEREST

More groups eye Boni stake

By Doris C. Dumlao

TWO more foreign firms have expressed interest in the controlling stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City project being sold by property developer Metro Pacific Corp.

MPC chair and acting CEO Manuel Pangilinan told reporters that efforts on the sale of the company's entire equity interest in Bonifacio Land Co. were continuing and that fresh interests from new groups were received. Pangilinan, however, declined to name the foreign groups.

He also said that he has yet to receive any management buyout proposal that was reportedly being structured by the company's former president and CEO, Ricardo Pascua, who earlier went on leave and eventually quit his post to disinterest himself from the ongoing bidding for MPC's 69.6-percent stake in BLC.

Pangilinan, who is also executive chair of MPC's parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, also said he could not say whether the company would be able to come up with a decision on the sale by February.

MPC earlier disclosed that it planned to cement its debt reduction plans not later than February this year.

Pangilinan also earlier said that Ayala Land Inc. was the "most advanced" as far as the negotiations over the BLC stake was concerned. However, ALI, for its part, had said that the $200 million being sought by MPC for the controlling stake in BLC was way beyond what it was willing to pay.

The Gokongweis' Robinsons Land Corp. had likewise expressed interest but submitted only a "non-binding" offer.

First Pacific, for its part, has now stepped into the ongoing sale after MPC failed to repay in December the $90 million in loans First Pacific had extended through subsidiary Larouge BV in April last year to refinance the convertible bonds of BLC. The loan to Larouge is secured by a 50.4-percent interest in BLC, or bulk of the entire 69.6-percent stake held by MPC in the company.

BLC has a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture with state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority, to develop the 150-hectare property.

The MPC group is saddled with about P17.8 billion in debts, including the debts of FBDC and BLC. But MPC itself has about P12 billion in borrowings of which P7 billion is owed to third-party creditors while the balance represents the debts to First Pacific.

MPC earlier said it had P9 billion worth of immediate sources of liquidity that could be used to retire debts.

CITIBANK 100 years Celebration held at Shangri-la Makati. From left: Richard Smith, country manager, private banking; Catherine Weir, Citibank country corporate officer; Frits Seegers, regional head, Asia-Pacific Consumer Bank; Nina Aguas, Citibank country business manager

JOHNNY VILLENA

DBP, Land Bank post growths in 2001 profits

By Clarissa S. Batino

STATE-RUN Development Bank of the Philippines has registered a net income of P1.84 billion last year, an amount 26 percent higher than the previous year's earnings of P1.46 billion.

The government bank's bad loans stood at less than 10 percent of its total loans, a level considered as among the lowest in the industry. Before loan provisions were made, DBP's earnings stood at P3.6 billion or 44 percent higher than the P2.5 billion in year 2000.

In 1999, DBP's net earnings were at P1.03 billion. The bank celebrated its anniversary last Friday and resolved to pursue a more aggressive lending to small and medium borrowers.

As of November, the loan portfolio of DBP stood at P78.48 billion. Of this, P21.1 billion were extended to retail or small borrowers in line with the mandate of government financial institutions to prioritize lending to small and medium enterprises.

DBP president Remedios Macalincag said the bank's lending to small and medium enterprises reached P20 billion. She noted that DBP had created an SME department to focus on lending to this group.

DBP has remained the biggest provider of long-term funds for project financing to other banks and financial institutions. At the same time, the state-run bank has launched its financial program for micro enterprises with an initial amount of P400 million.

Macalincag said that DBP, to finance its aggressive lending program, has tapped soft loans from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Germany's KFW and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Funding from these groups, she said, was meant to finance projects like environmental protection, domestic shipping modernization, urban water and sanitation, technical education and skills development, among others.

DBP chair Vitaliano Nañagas also pointed out that the bank was the first Philippine lender to meet international housekeeping standards under the ISO.

Meanwhile, Land Bank of the Philippines also posted stronger earnings last year of P1.5 billion compared with the previous year's P509 million. Land Bank president Margarito Teves said the bank was looking to increase this year's net income by 10 percent to P1.65 billion.

Landbank, however, remained hobbled with huge bad loans that accounted for almost 23 percent of its total loan portfolio.

Gov't, PNB seen to benefit from 'power-sharing'

JOINT control of Philippine National Bank (PNB) by the government and the Lucio Tan group is designed to protect the interests of both parties during the bank's rehabilitation process.

This was contained in a paper prepared by the Department of Finance and state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) prior to the signing by the government and the Lucio Tan group of a term sheet that set the stage for PNB's rehabilitation.

Written in a Question-and-Answer format, the paper was prepared in response to queries arising from the government's decision to convert part of its loans to PNB into equity. It also explained why government financial institutions like the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and PDIC extended billions of pesos in emergency financial assistance to PNB in September 2000.

"Government assistance to PNB was, essentially, a judgment call by regulators with public interest being the foremost consideration," according to the DOF-PDIC paper. It added that the government was committed to rehabilitate PNB primarily to protect its depositors and creditors and because of systemic risk considerations. "The failure of a major bank (like PNB), may cause other banks to fail, leading to disruptions and loss of confidence in the safety and soundness of the (Philippine) banking system given PNB's size and scope," the paper stressed.

Explaining that the emergency financial assistance extended to PNB on September 2000 was mainly intended to "arrest severe liquidity pressures experienced by PNB," the DOF-PDIC paper virtually doused speculations that it was done so because of the perceived influence of Tan.

As a precondition to the release of the P25-billion financial assistance, the paper added that the Lucio Tan group was required to infuse P10-billion in capital. The same loan was collateralized by good assets "with collateral cover of as much as 200 percent."

A power-sharing arrangement is believed to be a win-win solution for both the government and PNB's private owners because each party would be able to look after their respective interests while rehabilitation is ongoing.

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Boy scout banker

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

RAMON Sy must have been a boy scout in his younger days.

The president/CEO of International Exchange Bank has again answered a clarion call from Malacañang to help turn around another ailing government bank, this time the perennially stuck-in-the-mud Philippine National Bank.

According to the banking grapevine, Sy succumbed to the overtures of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho after no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo herself twice called up the reluctant banker through his cell phone last week.

To top it all, GMA also rang up a key iBank shareholder to ask for "permission" to allow Sy to serve as PNB president/CEO for three years.

Sy, in the presence of the iBank board, is scheduled today to make a formal announcement before the iBankers why he has arrived at such decision notwithstanding his earlier commitment to stay with the bank he helped found and flourish.

If it is any comfort to the bank staffers and its depositors, Sy will maintain his group's stock options, said to be 10 percent of the bank's equity, despite his PNB secondment.

Sy will stay on with iBank until March 31, and will be replaced from within by Antonio Moncupa, currently iBank executive vice president for treasury.

The first time that Sy, now said to be 65, left a lucrative private sector career was during the Aquino years when he chose to retire early from Bank of America to become the CEO of the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank.

Sy has had a free-hand in running the day-to-day affairs of iBank, and it is not immediately clear whether he has secured such an assurance from both Malaçañang and taipan Lucio Tan, who each control five board seats in PNB. Tan, specially, is known in the industry for micromanaging and his penchant to look over the shoulders of his executives.

The upside for working for the taipan is that, if he likes you, you get an extra *lai see* envelope during the holidays, on top of the already generous package the beer-tobacco-airline tycoon showers on his key lieutenants.

Depending on the banker you talk to and the state of his inebriation, Sy has allegedly secured a monthly paycheck of anywhere from P2 million to a guaranteed P70 million/year for the PNB assignment.

Next time, wear slippers

THE NEXT time you take Northwest Airlines, it would be a good idea to wear rubber slippers or flip flops instead.

Since Jan. 1, the American flag carrier quietly instituted a mandatory shoe inspection for all, and we mean, all passengers departing out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The shoe ritual is done twice, once at the final X-ray machine, and, the second, right at gate for the final preboarding inspection.

Even toddlers wearing sandals are not exempt, this we saw with our very own eyes last week. (This explains the column's absence on Wednesday and Friday. But that is another story.)

According to Northwest Airlines ground staff, the added security precaution was only being instituted out of Manila, not region-wide, and that it was only Northwest that had so far instituted the added safety check.

In the United States, Northwest only carries random shoe check (specially if the passenger is of bulky build, bearded and has Middle Eastern features.)

The Manila shoe inspection is on top of the mandatory hand-carry baggage and body search also conducted at the Northwest pre-departure lounge.

Back on US radar

EVEN without the Burston and Marsteller PR contract, the Philippines has been back on the front pages of the major American newspapers and the headlines of the US networks.

Washington's sending of a military contingent against the Abu Sayyaf ensured that. The downside of renewed US news interest is that the Philippines is again pictured as a violent country, possibly the next Afghanistan.

The upside is that the American correspondents, while here, are forced to fill up the reporting slack with the GMA economic turnaround story and human interest/feature stories.

Even a CBS feature last week on a day in the life of George Bush showed a clip with the US president making a remark during an early morning briefing with key staffers about the latest American foray in the Philippines getting quite a flak back here.

Our ambassador to Washington, Albert del Rosario, has also been riding on the coattail of the US media interest, having been invited to appear one-on-one over at the PBS' Jim Lehrer Newshour. (The Q-and-A is the most succinct introduction we have read so far about the terms of US engagement in Basilan.)

Heard through the grapevine

THE Philippine stock market was, up until Wednesday, the best performing bourse in the whole world, having risen by 17.63 percent since Dec. 31, according to the Dow Jones Global Indexes.

If this trend continues, may we be the first to greet the market's early birds a very Merry Christmas indeed.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

RP revives proposal to put up $100-B Asian Monetary Fund

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE leaders are pushing to revive a region-wide proposal to create a $100-billion Asian Monetary Fund that would help economies in Asia cope with the global weakness that may spark another crisis similar to what happened in 1997.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia, in a speech before the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines, said he had urged Japan Prime Minister Junicho Koizumi during the latter's visit to Manila early this month to revive his country's bid to initiate the creation of an Asian Monetary Fund or AMF.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura agreed that this was the right time for the region to again consider the creation of an AMF in its agenda.

Aside from Japan, China, Korea and the seven members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that includes the Philippines, the AMF could also invite the members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Camacho said.

Buenaventura noted that since two-thirds of the global dollar reserves or about $1 trillion belonged to economies in Asia, it was only appropriate for Asia to establish its own monetary fund.

"I believe that economic conditions now, both in the region and elsewhere in the world, have made it timely once again to seriously consider an AMF-style institution for the region," De Venecia said.

He said that Japan could infuse $50 billion into the proposed fund, China could add $20 billion, while South Korea and Singapore could put in $10 billion each.

The representative said the rest of the members of Asean including the Philippines could pool in, among themselves, the remaining $10 billion. The country only has $15.7 billion in dollar reserves, one of the lowest levels in the region.

De Venecia said the AMF should complement the International Monetary Fund the same way that the Asian Development Bank works in tandem with the World Bank.

The IMF was heavily criticized for its handling of the 1997 Asian financial crisis as it insisted on tying up a loan program of some economies to conditions that were not suitable to their diverse culture, religion, practices, and government standards.

The AMF, Buenaventura said, could work like a self-help group that would quickly respond to the problems of countries in Asia.

"This would help those with problems but with a serious intention of correcting it. The AMF should not offer a bailout," the central bank chief said.

Camacho noted that common concerns in Asia including an inter-related trade should make an Asian fund very effective in helping the economies sort out their problems.

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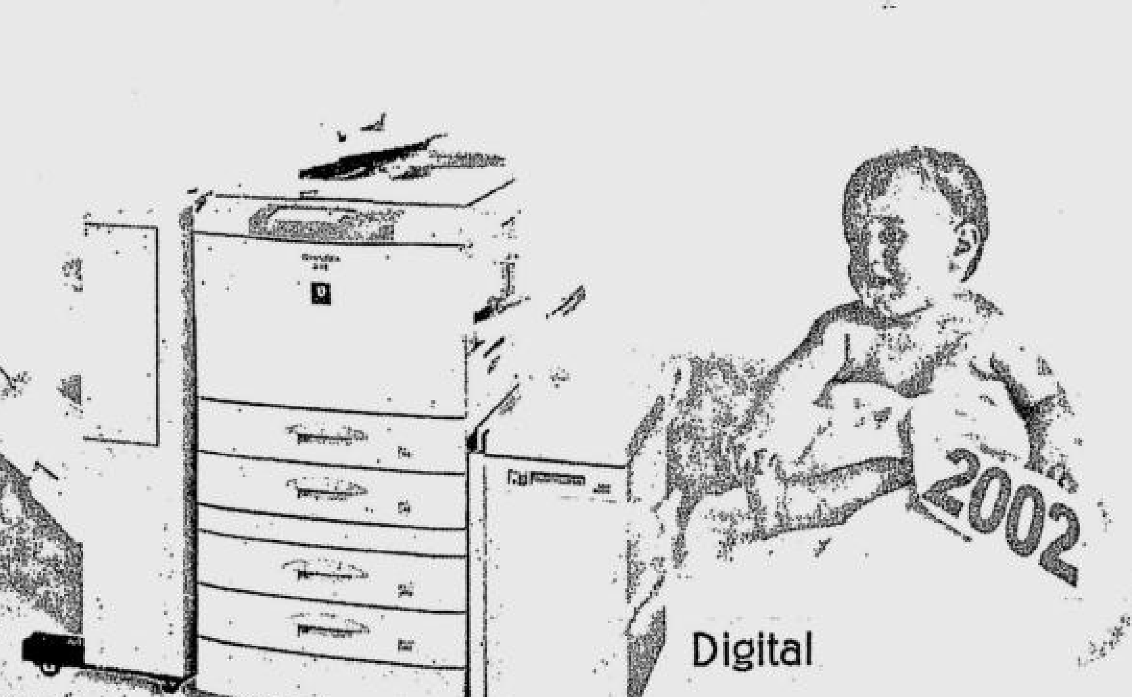

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Profit-taking seen to slow stock market's strong rally

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

THE MARKET is seen to consolidate the gains from its rapid ascent since mid-November but overall optimism is still likely to carry on this week despite the expected profit-taking on selected blue-chip issues.

Stock analysts and traders are also awaiting two significant developments this week that would affect medium-term market outlook—the release of the country's fourth-quarter economic growth figures and the next Federal Open Market Committee meeting in the United States.

Generally, the market has been discounting favorable gross domestic product numbers, based on earlier pronouncements from the National Economic and Development Authority that GDP in the fourth quarter had grown by at least 3.7 percent to meet the 4-4.5 percent full-year target for 2001.

In the case of interest rates, the market has been generally satisfied with the way local monetary authorities have eased the grip on liquidity even if analysts were expecting that the US Fed might not sanction further cuts this week.

This developed as strong foreign buying powered up the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index by another 6.34 percent last week to close at 1,337.15 on Friday as investors anticipated the resolution of the Abu Sayyaf problem in Mindanao with the recent deployment of US troops to assist the local military.

"The market will trade sideways with selected weakness," Securities Specialist president Francisco Villaroman said, noting that the issues which led previous rallies would succumb to profit-taking pressure.

Among the blue chips which rose last week were Meralco "B"," which jumped 15.9 percent on optimism that a much-delayed rate increase might finally be approved; Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (up 14.6 percent), on news that it might not need to unload a big stake in wireless unit Smart Communications Inc. to address debt woes, and Equitable PCI Bank (up 5.4 percent), which was seen to benefit from the proposed lifting of restrictions on foreign ownership.

Mike Ordinanza, an analyst with PCI Capital Corp., agreed that a correction this week would be healthy.

"This week is a good time for those who were able to buy at low prices to unload. There's a lot of liquidity. The market has gone up sharply and there are a lot of values to be recognized. A 10-20 percent lock-in on gains is okay," Ordinanza said.

Also, Ordinanza said there was still an alternative investment destination in the form of the 365-day treasury bills bidding this week, which would be the last of its tenor before finally being phased out by the government to give way to the two-year treasury bonds.

Manny Cruz, head of research of Mark Securities, also noted that blue-chip issues and second-liners would likely see some healthy correction during the early part of the week as part of rotational buying in the market.

"The market will thus be slightly weak during the first few days because the focus will be on the third liners," Cruz said. "The third liners will enjoy some buying momentum, same as what happened last Friday."

As such, he predicted that there would be some short-lived rally for technology upstart Philweb.com and affiliate Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.

"But as the market enters the middle of the week, the focus will still be again on the blue chips and the second liners," he said. "The market will continue to be in an upbeat mood."

Cruz said the market would have a strong technical support at 1,280 but if breached, would have another barrier at 1,250. On the other hand, he said the technical resistance was initially at 1,350 and then at 1,400.

"I think we'll hit the 1,400 very soon," he said. "There's still buying momentum."

Other big gainers last week included DMCI Holdings (up 44 percent), which benefited from the renewed optimism on the property sector, and Benpres Holdings Corp. (up 31 percent), after the Supreme Court allowed wireless unit Bayan Telecommunications Inc. to finally operate its cellular business.

Bourse urged to extend trading hours

By Elena R. Torrijos

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has urged the Philippine Stock Exchange to extend its trading hours in light of the possible recovery of the local stock market as indicated by a recent surge in trading volumes.

Speaking before stockbrokers at the PSE executive dining lounge in Tower 1 along Ayala Avenue last week, Camacho noted that it was high time for the PSE to extend its trading hours, which were currently the shortest in the region lasting only for two and a half hours every morning.

In response to Camacho's call, broker Vivian Yuchengco said that the PSE was indeed considering extending trading hours but on a voluntary basis and "off-floor."

Two years ago, the PSE board initiated a move to extend trading hours but the effort failed.

In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission last week, Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas lobbied for the PSE to extend trading hours in order to expand volume.

In an interview, Roxas noted: "We always talk about world class and how can we be world class when everybody else trades the whole day? And some (regional stock markets) are extending further. Hong Kong last year, while they already have an afternoon session, extended even further and the reason given is to attract more business."

Roxas also pointed out that liquidity or the ability to take out money when they wanted to was very important to investors, who, if they were depositors, would not put their money in a bank that was open only half-day.

While the cost of running the exchange in the afternoon was a valid concern, the PSE should consider that the probable better performance of the stock market would allow it to attract more companies to list, thus boosting the exchange's income, Roxas argued.

Regarding the suggestion of Yuchengco that the exchange would provide facilities to brokers to trade "off-floor," Roxas said it would be a waste of resources not to maximize the use of the exchange's two trading floors the whole day.

IT firm drops plan to expand overseas

INFORMATION technology solutions provider Diversified Financial Network Inc. (DFNN) has overhauled its strategy for offshore expansion by focusing on marketing tie-ups while shelving plans to put up DFNN.com units abroad.

Although foreign partners were earlier identified for the proposed offshore DFNN.com units such as in India and China, DFNN executive chair Ramon Garcia said on Friday the company was now instead keen on entering into sales partnerships rather than exporting the DFNN.com model.

This developed as the company gave up its DFNN.com brand when it tied up with news portal INQ7.net in August last year to put up INQ7 Money, a personal finance portal. Under the deal, DFNN shall continuously develop interactive tools and databases for the personal finance section while INQ7.net—a joint venture between media firms Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA 7—retains control over the editorial content. "Operational issues take precedence over branding issues," Garcia said.

He noted, however, that the company still kept a vertical website, DFNN.net, for its IT solutions side of the business. Aside from pioneering online stock trading in the country, DFNN is also an application service and financial e-commerce solutions provider.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, January 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68.5	68.5	67	67.5	414,400
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	630
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	15	15	15	15	200
Citystate Savings Bank	14	14	14	14	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30.5	30.5	29	29.5	452,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	201	202	199	200	152,080
Philippine National Bank	68	70	65.5	70	81,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	47,300
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	65,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	16.75	16.75	261,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	31,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	210,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1295	1300	1285	1300	980
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1015	1025	1015	1020	17,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	757,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.48	6,270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	680	670	675	234,640
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0.034	.0.03	0.034	13,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	22,000
Piltel	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	1,210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	515	505	510	237,780
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.66	0.6	0.6	450,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.025	397,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26.5	28	26.5	27.5	357,800
Manila Electric Co. B	40.5	40.5	40	40	2,043,800
Petron Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.82	1.86	22,312,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.08	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.8	3,403,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	260,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	12,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	260,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	140,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	350,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	818,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	95,000
RFM Corp.	2.95	3	2.9	2.9	2,246,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	367,700
San Miguel Corp. B	59	60.5	59	60	1,283,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	25,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	8.9	9	8.9	9	2,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65	130,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	40,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	22,335,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	1,586,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.83	0.84	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.58	480,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	213,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.78	0.7	0.76	39,110,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	220,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.33	10,890,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.115	0.1	0.11	12,100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	390,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	4,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	727,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	1,500,000
Ionics Inc.	7.3	8.5	7.3	8.3	251,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.8	1.74	1.76	347,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	93,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.02	0.017	0.02	1,700,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.92	0.86	0.9	13,820,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	5,740,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.33	18,060,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	900,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	1,570,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	780,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	30,070,000
Pryce Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	2,400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	600,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.59	0.6	2,980,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	100
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31.5	32	30.5	31.5	2,163,400
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	720	720	720	720	140
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	210,000
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	480	480	480	480	800
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	650	660	650	660	7,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	160,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	20,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	628,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	14,984,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,010,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.52	3,640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.33	19,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.42	2.46	2.32	2.32	15,147,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.1	400,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	1,120,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	7,754,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.33	600,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	24,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.031	0.037	0.031	0.035	98,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	2,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	11,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	16,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.02	60,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	18,900,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	17,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	94,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	64,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	16,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,750,800	102,962,400.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,627,215,860	896,750,835.00
PRO	64,205,000	182,984,340.00
Mining	214,300,000	5,587,700.00
OIL	229,130,000	1,838,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	2,136,601,660	1,190,123,875.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	549.51	DOWN 5.06
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,830.18	UP 8.17
PRO	576.09	DOWN 7.18
Mining	1,175.00	UP 3.38
OIL	2.04	UP 0.10
All Shares Index	725.25	DOWN 0.73

Composite 1,337.15 DOWN 2.49

NO. OF ADVANCES: 50; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 126; NO. OF TRADES: 4,872

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SELLING:		BUYING:	
Baguio Country Club	725,000	Alabang "A/B"	1.5M/1.6M*
Camp John Hay Golf	280,000	Cebu CC	1,600,000
Canyon Woods	200,000	Camp John Hay Golf	250,000
Club Filipino	210,000	Canlubang Golf	600,000
Eagle Ridge "A/B/C"	350/400/550,000	Eagle Ridge "A"	350,000
Fontana "D"	80,000	Evercrest	90,000
Forest Hills "A/C"	230/320**	Forest Hill "A/C"	230/270*
Manila Golf (Indv.)	11,000,000	Manila Golf (Indv.) & Corp.	10.5M/11.5M
Manila Golf (Corp)	12,980,000	Manila Polo	2,550,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Manila Southwoods "A/B"	540,000
Manila Southwoods "A/B"	650/750*	Makati Sports "A/B"	250,000/250,000
Makati Sports "A/B"	250/250*	Metropolitan "A/B"	100,000/100,000
Mt. Malarayat "A/C"	350/600	Mt. Malarayat "A/C"	350/550
Orchard "A/C"	230/430	Orchard "A/C"	220/350
Philippine Columbian	80,000	Puerto Azul	125,000
Quezon City Sports	210,000	Riviera "A/B"	200,000/250,000
Rockwell Club	380,000	Punta Fuego	500,000
The Country Club	3,500,000	Sta. Elena "A"	1,650,000
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	360/800	Sherwood	100,000
Valley Golf	230,000	Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	360/800
Wack Wack	7,000,000	Tagaytay Midlands	700,000
		Valley Golf	Please call
		Wack Wack	6,500,000

Other shares & playing rights available

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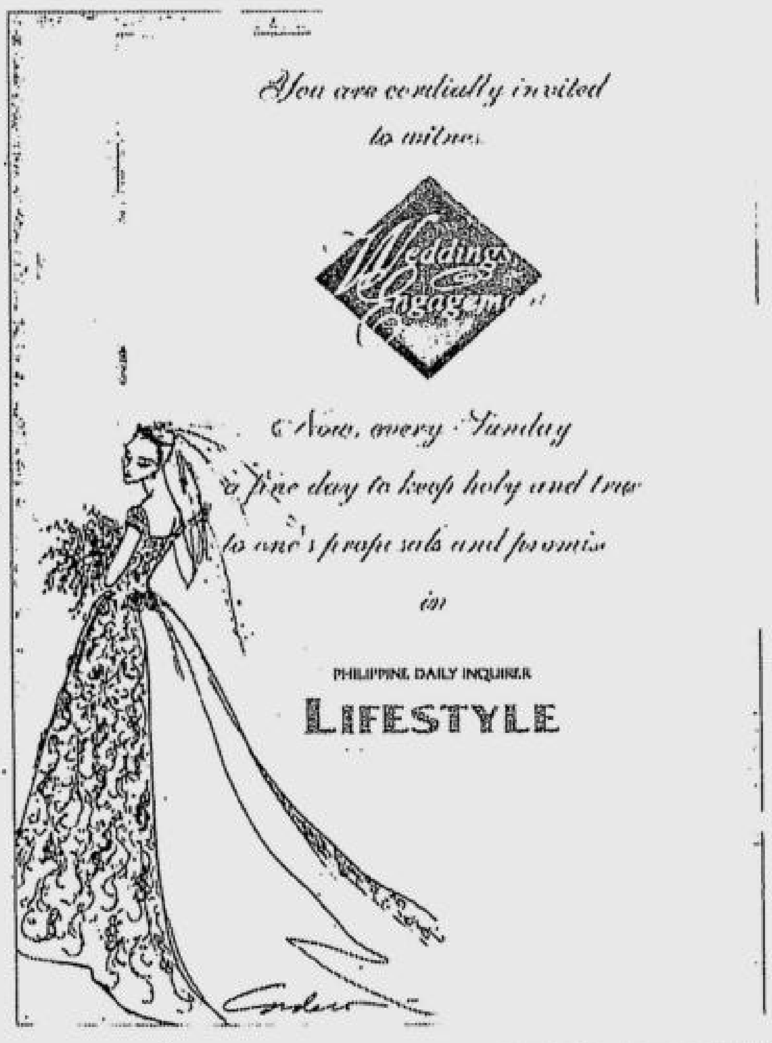
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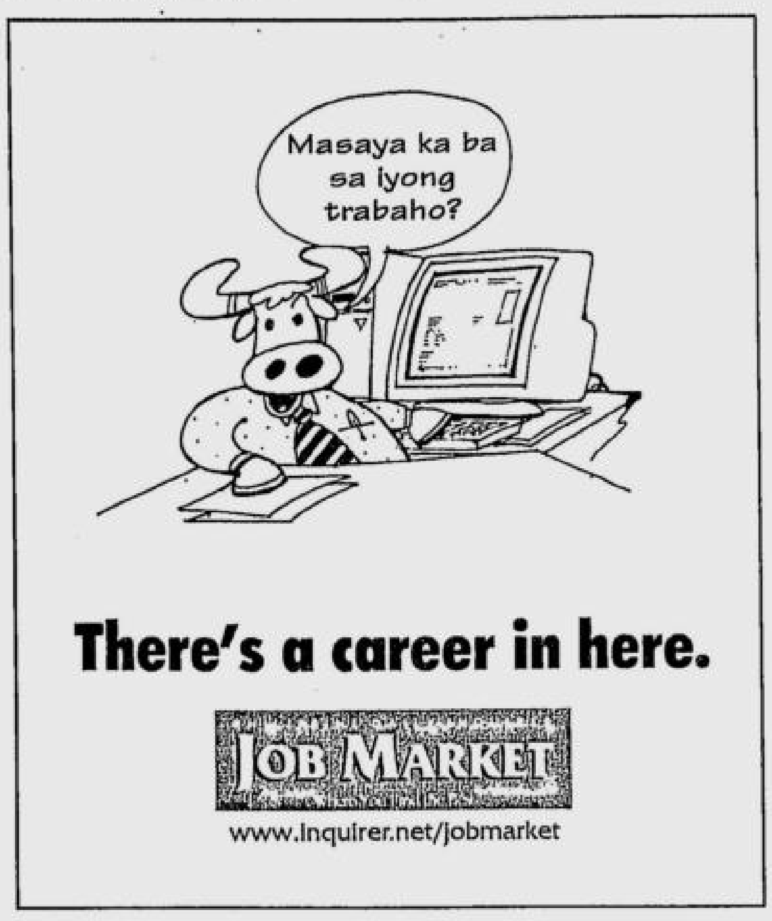
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Partial list : Please Call for other clubs and for Share Swapping ● 01/28/02

CLUBS	SELLING AT	BUYING AT
ALABANG "A"	-------	1,600,000
BAGUIO CC	-------	700,000
CALATAGAN GC	90,000	-------
CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000
CANLUBANG GC	865,000	-------
CAPITOL HILLS	-------	115,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	CALL NOW	380,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000	-------
CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	-------
EAGLERIDGE "A"	-------	300,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	-------
EVERCREST "A"	250,000	-------
FOREST HILLS "A"	230,000	-------
MAKATI SPORTS "B"	350,000	-------
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	CALL NOW	-------
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,700,000	2,600,000
MIMOSA GC (INDIV)	250,000	-------
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	730,000	640,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	750,000	-------
ORCHARD "A" / "C"	25M / 55M	-------
PUNTA FUEGO	CALL NOW	-------
QC SPORTS	-------	200,000
RIVIERA GCC "A" / "B"	CALL NOW	-------
RIVIERA GCC "C"	-------	550,000
SPLENDIDO	CALL NOW	-------
STA. ELENA "A"	1,050,000	-------
SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (INDIV)	200,000	-------
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	830,000	700,000
THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	-------
WACK WACK GOLF	CALL NOW	6,500,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
CANLUBANG GC	35,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	45,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1,450,000.00
2	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	720,000.00
3	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	750,000.00	-
4	CAPITOL HILLS	-	110,000.00
5	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	-	350,000.00
6	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	-
7	FONTANA "C"	150,000.00	-
8	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000.00	-
9	MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	2,600,000.00
10	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	13,000,000.00	Please call
11	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000.00	600,000.00
12	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000.00	-
13	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	600,000.00	-
14	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	-	300,000.00
15	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000.00	-
16	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	135,000.00	
17	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	-
18	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000.00
19	ROCKWELL	550,000.00	
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PAL knew it only borrowed Cebu Pacific's flights, CAB letter shows

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. had known since Jan. 11 that the slots lent to it by the Civil Aeronautics Board so it could schedule two more flights each week to South Korea belonged to rival carrier Cebu Pacific Air, according to a document obtained by the INQUIRER.

In a letter, CAB executive director Manuel San Jose informed PAL assistant vice president Socorro Gonzaga that three of the four new "entitlements" that the Philippines got from an amended air service agreement with South Korea belonged to Cebu Pacific.

"With the thrust of the government on the liberalization policy in the aviation industry and in order for the designation of Cebu Pacific Air to be effective, the board, in its meeting on Dec. 19, 2001, resolved to grant the three additional frequencies to Cebu Pacific Air for its operation between Manila and Seoul (Incheon) starting Jan. 22, 2002," San Jose said in his letter to Gonzaga.

In a statement released last week, PAL claimed that that the CAB "did not reach a decision, much less a final decision, on Dec. 19" to grant Cebu Pacific a "perfected and vested right" to send three flights each week to South Korea.

The airline said it even wrote the CAB on Jan. 8 to ask for information on what was decided on after the board's Dec. 19 meeting.

It said it received the board's reply written by San Jose only on Jan. 11. It considered that date as the start of the 15-day period within which it could respond to the CAB's decision to allow Cebu Pacific to fly three times a week to South Korea beginning March.

On the same day it received San Jose's letter, PAL filed a petition asking the CAB to let it use two of Cebu Pacific's allocated flights so it could assign more flights along the Cebu-Soul route.

The board granted PAL's request on the condition that Cebu Pacific would get back its "entitlements" as soon as it could roll out its services on March 2.

In recent statements, PAL has staked a claim on Cebu Pacific's allocated flights. The airline invoked the "grandfather rule," citing investments it had made along the Philippine-South Korea route.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Cebu Pacific accused PAL of pushing it out of its international routes "to prevent the introduction of low fares."

Cebu Pacific has said it may junk its plan to provide air services between the Philippines and South Korea if the CAB gives it only one flight schedule each week.

"That's not fair competition," the airline said. "Who would ride with us if the earliest time they can make a return flight would be one week later?"

DOE sets meet on rules governing gas industry

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy will conduct this week a public consultation on the proposed rules that will govern the local natural gas industry.

In a news statement, the department said the draft rules would cover the development of the downstream gas industry. This involved the transmission, distribution and supply of natural gas.

"The proposed rules aim to facilitate private sector participation and to promote fair competition for all industry players," it said. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

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Notice of Postponement of Annual Shareholders' Meeting

To: All Stockholders

Notice is hereby given to all stockholders [as of the record date of 20 September 2001] that the Annual Shareholders' Meeting of the Corporation, which is scheduled on 30 January 2002, has been postponed until further notice.

Please be guided accordingly.

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A. BAYANI K. TAN
Corporate Secretary

Banana chip exporters predict 20% revenue hike

THE COUNTRY'S banana chip exporters have forecast a 20-percent increase in their earnings this year, saying new markets in the Middle East and former Soviet republics like Uzbekistan are offering big opportunities.

See's International Food Mfg. Corp. president Ruben See reported that the country's banana chip exports earned between $16.9 million and $20.28 million last year.

"We are focusing on new markets and diversifying into new product lines to reach our sales increase target of 20 percent this year," See told the INQUIRER.

See's International is one of the country's largest exporters of banana chips. Among the other major players in this industry are BG Fruits and Nuts Corp., Celebes Food Co., El Poco Manufacturing Co., BSC Food Manufacturing Co. and BNG Food Manufacturing Co.

See said the industry was also trying new product lines, including using sweet banana made out of the local *"saba"* variety in cereals exported to the United States. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

NTC willing to settle row with cell phone firms over billing

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has said it is willing to settle out of court differences with the country's biggest telecommunication firms over the implementation of a new fee structure.

"We will be holding meetings with cellular phone companies to settle this. We will just remove the provisions in the (memorandum circular) that both consumers and operators oppose," NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in a news briefing.

Rio said the NTC was willing to enter into settlements with Globe Telecom Inc., Smart Communications Inc. and their subsidiaries, Isla Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

One provision under dispute is the need to get identification papers from prepaid subscribers.

The NTC wants consumers who buy prepaid SIM (subscriber identification module) packs to present a valid ID, so it can maintain a database of prepaid subscribers in the country.

"We'll just remove this since both consumers and operators don't like it," Rio told reporters.

Some other provisions, however, will have to be retained, he said, although these can still be amended according to what the NTC and the telecommunication companies can agree on.

The implementation of the six-second pulse charging is still negotiable, he said. Mobile phone operators want it implemented after two minutes while the NTC wants it after 30 seconds.The expiration of prepaid call cards is still negotiable, Rio said. Mobile phone operators are insisting that two years is too long a time.

The NTC issued a memorandum circular changing the billing schemes of cellular phone firms on June 16, 2000, but it has yet to be implemented.

US firm hails DOJ drive against counterfeiting

US-BASED manufacturer Caterpillar Inc. has lauded a move by the Department of Justice to file criminal charges against a Marikina-based businessman for violating provisions of the country's intellectual property law.

Caterpillar earlier rapped Manolo Samson for allegedly using its "CAT" brand name and logos on personal items not manufactured or sold by the US firm.

A recent raid by elements of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the National Capital Region resulted in the confiscation of close to P80 million worth of alleged counterfeit CAT-branded personal items, such as shoes, T-shirts, belts, wallets and caps.

Caterpillar lawyer and spokesperson Gilbert Reyes said the move by the justice department "sends very positive signals to the international investor community."

The DOJ move is a strong message that the government will not allow the Philippines to become a haven for brand and product counterfeiting, Reyes said.

Caterpillar alleged that it lost over $20 million in the Philippines due to the rampant sale of personal items sporting suspected counterfeit CAT names and logos. The US firm said its original personal products were not sold in local malls and outlets but were available only in duty-free shops.

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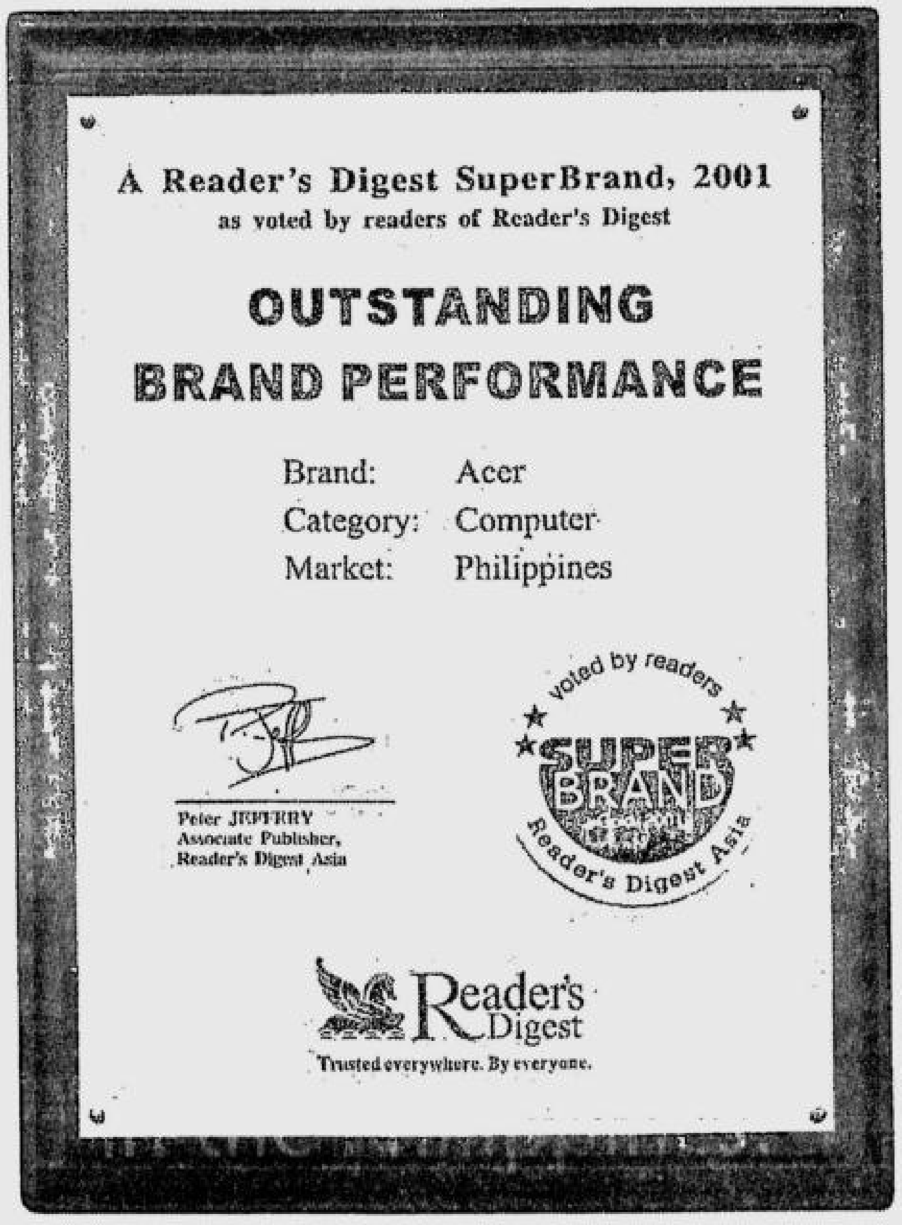

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Napocor plans bigger bond float at $500M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INVESTMENT grade ratings that National Power Corp. got recently from three international credit rating agencies are expected to boost the power agency's fund raising capability particularly in its forthcoming long-term bond float.

With the improved ratings, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said Napocor could increase the size of its scheduled bond flotation from the original amount of $100 million to as much as $500 million.

Perez is part of the government team that will hold a roadshow starting this week in the United States and in major European cities to sell the Napocor bond. The bond sale will be handled by Bear Stearns & Co. and JP Morgan Chase.

Earlier, Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch have given the Napocor bonds investment grades of Ba1 and BB+. This is the first time a state-run Philippine corporation is able to secure such ratings considering the financial difficulties encountered by the power firm.

The country's sovereign rating from these three agencies remained below investment grade.

Bear Stearns & Co., in a press statement, said that the improved ratings would help Napocor to access a broader investor base than those traditionally buying debt issues of emerging markets like the Philippines.

The investment bank said that the more sophisticated investors who are sensitive to credit ratings and who normally do not participate in these fund-raising exercises have expressed interest to buy the Napocor bonds.

Bear Stearns said this high-grade investor base represents more than a trillion dollars in capital.

"The planned issue will allow Napocor to tap this wider universe of investors at yields that are lower than the levels at which the Republic of the Philippines is currently issuing," said Bear Stearns in a statement.

The power firm needs to raise $1 billion this year to pay about $800 million worth of maturing obligations and to finance capital expenses.

Napocor will get one-third of the proceeds of the $750 million, 15-year global bonds that the national government issued in the middle of January. The proceeds from the forthcoming 5-year bond issue will also be used in paying maturing obligations and financing capital expenses.

The government is also exploring the possibility of tapping the guarantee facility of Asian Development Bank to back the future borrowings of Napocor.

Sugar output seen to rise by 8.8%

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE SUGAR Regulatory Administration is projecting an 8.8-percent increase in sugar production in the current crop year ending August to 1.85 million metric tons from last year's 1.7 million metric tons.

SRA Administrator James C. Ledesma said this would bring down the expected sugar production shortfall during the period to 200,000 metric tons from the earlier estimate of 300,000 metric tons.

Ledesma said it was still too early to determine the specific domestic demand for the current crop year but estimates showed it could be between 1.8 million and 1.9 million metric tons.

The country needs an additional supply of 137,000 metric tons of raw sugar to meet its export commitment to the United States.

The SRA said that even the dry spell that is seen to hit the country this year would not likely affect sugar production.

"We will have a problem if El Niño will stay until the first quarter of next year," Ledesma said.

Ledesma noted that as of mid-January, the local market has more than enough supply of sugar with total production in the first quarter of the current crop year hitting 320,000 metric tons.

The country will begin shipping out some 50,000 metric tons of sugar to the US before this month ends.

Ledesma, however, refused to disclose the volume of sugar to be imported to fill the gap between local production and the requirement for the whole year.

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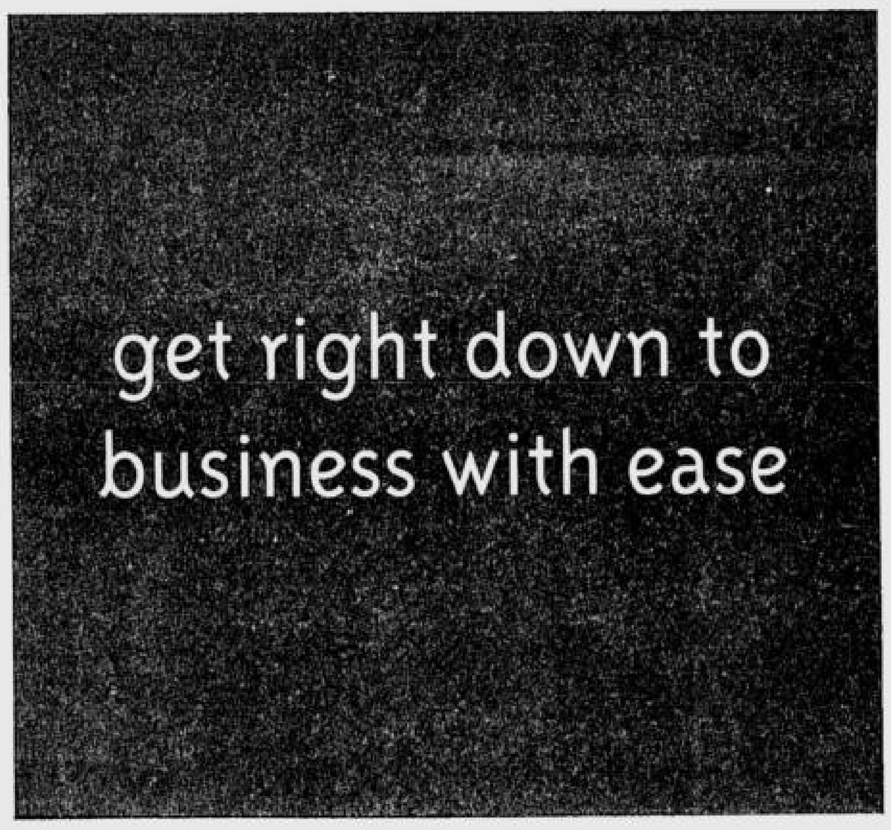

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Gov't prods banks to lower loan rates

From page B1

borrowings," the finance secretary said.

Banks would argue that loan demand has not picked up but Buenaventura and Camacho were not convinced. "There is always demand. The problem with banks is that they got used to higher yields," the BSP governor said.

What banks should do, according to Camacho, was to strike a balance between wanting to increase their profitability through loan spreads and the need to improve their loan portfolio by bringing down spreads so borrowers would have a cheaper access to funds.

"To the extent that banks would bring down interest rates for everybody, then economic conditions would change for all. We are urging banks to lower rates commensurate to their funding costs," Camacho said.

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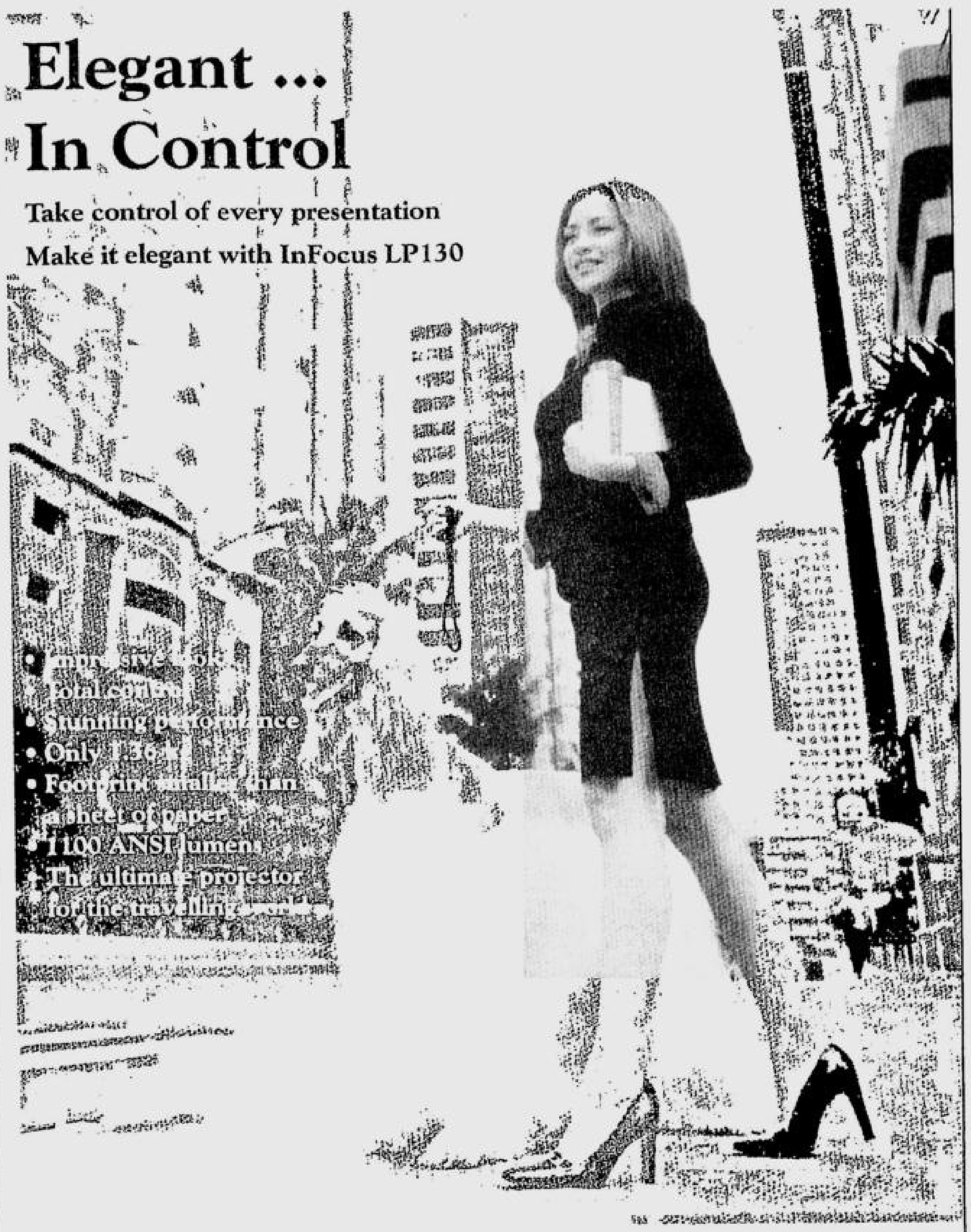
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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF MANGATAREM (Pangasinan), INC. (RBMI)

1. The PDIC shall start claims settlement operations in the closed Rural Bank of Mangatarem (Pangasinan), Inc. for the insured deposits with balances over P10,000.00 up to the statutory limit of P100,000.00 per depositor and resume receiving/processing claims for those with balances of P10,000.00 and below.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the RBMI office/ branch where they maintained their deposits which have been designated as payoff sites (please refer to table below). PDIC representatives are stationed at these payoff sites to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Friday.

RBMI Office/Branch and Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Head Office P. Burgos St., Mangatarem Pangasinan	Jan. 29 to Feb. 18, 2002
Bayambang Branch Bayambang, Pangasinan	Jan. 29 to Feb. 13, 2002

After the said servicing dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to —

The Manager
Claims Processing Center
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/ or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Mangatarem (Pangasinan) Inc. is on April 8, 2003. After April 8, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI -- Jan. 28, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MA. MELMA C. SANCHEZ

The public is hereby notified that **MS. MA. MELMA C. SANCHEZ**, whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with **PETPlans, Inc.**

Any transaction with Ms. Melma Sanchez will not be honored by the company.

PETPlans Centre, 114 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel.: 892-5546 Fax No. 893-5339
www.petplans.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby given notice that the hereunder listed motor vehicle is presently mortgage with YL FINANCE CORPORATION and will be subjected to foreclosure judicially or extra judicially as soon as the present whereabouts of said motor vehicle is known. Anyone who has information for this matter will be rewarded:

REGISTERED OWNER	UNIT	CHASIS #	MOTOR #
1. LIBERATO YAMBAO	KIA PREGIO VAN 1997	KNTR 7313V6301635	J2148002
2. LEONORA BACILES	KIA PREGIO VAN 1997	KNHTR 731 3V6304823	J2-185208
3. MARIO RANZAN	ISUZU BUS	CPM 600-2328194	10PBI983139
4. JOSE LAGRADILLA	NISSAN SENTRA SEDAN '99	BAYALHFB14-C74179	CA 16P0021318
5. VILLARINO RAYMUNDO	TOYOTA COROLLA '97	EE 1009565983	2E2983624
6. MARILYN NITE	TOYOTA COROLLA	AE929075030	4A 8741025
7. FRANCIS DELA FUENTE	TOYOTA COROLLA	EE 100-9539063	2E-2816728
8. ANICIA TORRALBA	TAN FX	KFD50 913698	5K 1272004
9. CORAZON ACENA	BOBCAT LOZDA	76093324	VI702-59740

YL FINANCE CORP.
3/F Yupangco Bldg. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
899-9595 look for Ghet or Rhezee

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MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 9134470 Ms Ivy

Ofc Staff 9134470 CHEL

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms. Bon

OFC STAFF 9134470 Mariel

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF Rush9134470 Ian

Urgent need office staff 9134470 Start asap Ms. Jelly

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Our Beloved "Inay"

Felisa Maranan De Las Alas

(widow of Antonio M. De Las Alas, Sr.)
1919 - 2001

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on Friday, January 25, 2002.

She is survived by her sister **Remy**; children **Bayani** and **Linda**, **Tony** and **Gloria**, **Ernie** and **Tessie**, **Jim** and **Len**, **Leland** and **Lucy**, **Reuben** and **Dinda**, **Ching** and **Gil**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her body lies in state at her residence in Butong, Taal, Batangas.

Interment will be announced at a later date.

Her family requests all friends and family to pray for Inay's eternal peace.

ATTY. JESUS VILLORDON

February 14, 1916 - January 25, 2002

***Jesus**, Loving husband to **Luz** passed away on Friday, January 25, 2002 at 2:30 a.m. at their home in Iloilo.*

Body lies in state at SOMO FUNERAL HOME at Delgado St., Iloilo City.

Interment will be on February 3, 2002 at CHRIST THE KING MEMORIAL PARK at Ungka, Jaro, Iloilo City.

For more information, please contact SOMO FUNERAL HOME @ tel. no. (033) 337-4009 336-4535 & 336-4536

Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, my servant also will be.
John 12:16

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
nor has it so much as dawned on man what
God has prepared for those who love him."
Corinthians 2:9

We lovingly remember Our Benevolent Father on his Twenty First Death Anniversary

OSCAR VENTANILLA, SR.

of Cabanatuan City
who died on January 29, 1981

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

	Church	Time
1.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentino Cathedral** Cabanatuan City	All Masses
2.	**Dambana** Cabanatuan City	All Masses
3.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, Metro Manila	All Masses
4.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila	All Masses
5.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** San Pedro, Laguna	All Masses
6.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish** Biñan, Laguna	All Masses
7.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City	All Masses
8.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City	All Masses
9.	**St. Basil the Great Church** Brecksville, Ohio, U.S.A.	7:00 a.m.

His surviving children: **Gloria V. Apolonio, Oscar Jr., Rosalinda V. Escaño**; sons and daughters-in-law; and grandchildren, request relatives, friends, and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

On Sunday morning, the 27th of January 2002,

LEONOR PINEDA CAMACHO

peacefully went back to Our Creator and happily rejoined her husband Bert, son Louie, and daughter Ditas.

Her loving family, son **Tony**; grandchildren **Richmond** and **Maricel**, **Louie** and **Grace**, **Tony** and **Vangie**, **Ginny** and **Cedric**, **Kristine**, **Anna**, and **Brian**, all her great grandchildren and all her relatives, wish her a joyous journey and ask the readers to do the same.

Her remains will be cremated on Monday, 28th of January, after which the urn will be put on view at the Arlington Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, in the evening until Tuesday.

Interment will be in Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan, on Wednesday, 30th of January, after the 2:00 pm Mass at the Makinabang Parish Church.

In Loving Memory of

ATTY. AURORA AMPIL DAJOYAG

July 29, 1915 – January 26, 2002
Former Chief, Legal Division, Board of Transportation

"A Mother's love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible."

She will always be cherished by her sons **Rafael** and **Mariano Jr.**; daughters-in-law **Milagros Palos** and **Felicidad Milano**; grandchildren **Maria Aurora, Maria Christina, Ma. Cecilia, Marianne Isidra, Maria Jhoanna, Mariano III, Carlomagno** and **Josellto**; sister-in-law **Rosa Dajoyag Vda. de Caringal**; and "Balae" **Fidencia Palos**.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-A) 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at La Loma Cemetery, Kalookan City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

So dearly loved, so fondly remembered,
she will be truly missed. . .

Liwayway G. Santos, vda. de Villa-Real

Who joined her Creator and husband, the late **Gen. Luis G. Villa-Real** (Ret.) last 26th of January, 2002. She is survived by her children: **Rory** and **Manuel**, **Teya** and **Ricky**, **Carlos**; **Boy** and **Carol**, **Menchu** and **Ditos**, **Tito** and **Ditas**, **Linda** and **Jun**; her brother **Benny** and sister **Asa**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Her body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Parish Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 30th of January 2002, at the Heritage Memorial Gardens, Taguig, Metro Manila, after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Death is nothing else but going home to God;
the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity.

- Mother Teresa

"Happy are those who have died in the Lord
Let them rest from their labors,
for their good deeds go with them."
Rev. 14:13

Lord we entrust our beloved mother to you,
full of trust and gratitude,
now that she has reached the fullness of life.

CRISTINA (Inday) ADARNA Vda. de ESQUEJO

July 25, 1910 - January 26, 2002

Was called to a life of eternal happiness with the Lord at the age of 91.

Her beloved children **EVANGELINA** (Nene) **CAPILI, NIEVES DELA FUENTE, CLAUDIA CEDRO, EDNA, TESSIE**, all her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the readers to join us in praying for the peaceful repose of her soul.

Her earthly remains lie in state at St. John Chapel of Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 30, 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church.

CLASSIFIEDS

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W/ Experience Marketing, Customer Oriented, Computer literate 0919-2284232

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is herby given that the estate ofRuperta Verduz has been settled under an Affidavit of Settlement of Estate with Absolute Deed of sale under Doc. No. 18, Page No. 4, Book No. 44, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Pasay City
(PDI- Jan. 14, 21 & 28 ' 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG KORPORASYON SA ELEKTRISIDAD
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2002-02

Rebidding Date: February 6, 2002 - 10:00 AM

PB020123-PDRA7054	UNSCHEDULED PARTS REQUIREMENTS OF HELICOPTERS RP-2860 & RP-2870 & BN2T ISLANDER RP-766 (Fuel Quantity/Oil Temperature Indicator, Conduit Assy., Bushing, etc.)
PB020123-PDER7064	PLAQUE, Clear Acrylic with Polyester Resin Plaque, Clear Acrylic Base with NPC Logo, No Sharp Edge

*** Opening Date: February 11, 2002 - 10:00 AM**
Bidding Date: February 13, 2002 - 9:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference: February 6, 2002 - 2:00 PM

2002-02-01	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FUEL (UNLEADED GASOLINE & DIESEL) Conforms with the quality standards prescribe under RA #8749 CLEAN AIR ACT (To be purchased thru Open-Ended Purchase Order for a period of three months starting April, 2002)
2002-02-02	TIRES, Tubeless, various sizes (To be purchased thru Open-Ended Purchase Order for a period of four months starting March, 2002)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **January 25, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable.
* Last day of issuance of eligibility and bidding documents is on **February 6, 2002.**

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents, mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Jan. 26 & 28, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Second Publication)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to Appl for Eligibility and to Bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NIGHT VISION WEAPON SIG ,NVWS)***, with an approved budget of ***Forty Nine Million Seven Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 49,766,400.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce said Night Vision Weapon Sights shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***January 29, 2002*** until ***February 13, 2002*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat. Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini. Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***February 13, 2002*** at ***1:00 PM (local time)*** at the *Silid Panday Pira, CJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City* Bidd are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat pri Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and th on ***March 15, 2002 at 9:00 AM (local time)*** after which the Opening of Bids shall follow. Venue is at *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or al waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whats expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L. ABAYA**
Lt General AFP
Chairman BAC

(PDI--Jan. 28 & 29, 2002)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

On his ***FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY,***

we lovingly remember

***DADDY,* YOU ARE**
***FOREVER* IN OUR HEARTS...**
***SORELY MISSED* BY ALL OF US.**

ATTY. ROMEO REYES TICZON, SR.

(HUSBAND AND BEST FRIEND OF THE LATE ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA)

1997 GOLDEN SCROLL AWARDEE FOR MEDICINE AND ALLIED SCIENCES
(PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS)

1997 GINTONG AMA AWARDEE (PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS)

1997 GOLDEN LEADERSHIP AWARDEE FOR BUSINESS AND HERBAL MEDICINE
(SOCIAL ACTION & CIVIC MOVEMENT, INC.)

CORPORATE LAWYER, HERBAL SCIENTIST, AUTHOR OF ELEVEN (11) HERBAL MANUALS
AND ONE (1) HERBAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, REALTOR, PHILANTROPIST

who died in the Grace of our Lord on **January 29, 1997, 12:40 p.m.** *at the age of* **79**.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, **January 29, 2002**:

St. Francis Parish Church	*Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	***6:00 AM***
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish	*Doña J. Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City*	***6:00 AM***
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish	*McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	***6:15 AM***
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church	*Magallanes Village, Makati City*	***6:15 AM***
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary	*Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	***6:30 AM***
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish	*Kalayaan, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	***6:30 AM***
Immaculate Concepcion Parish	*P. Burgos St., Antipolo, Rizal*	***6:30 AM***
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima	*Cor. Rodriguez Ave., & Capinpin St., Bangkal, Makati*	***6:30 AM***
Redemptorist Church	*Baclaran, Manila*	***6:45 AM***
Malate Catholic Church	*2000 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	***7:00 AM***
Sanctuario de San Jose	*Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	***7:15 AM***
St. John Bosco Parish	*Pasay Road, Makati City*	***7:30 AM***
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	*Quiapo, Manila*	***5:00 PM***
Harrison Plaza Chapel	*2/F, Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	***5:30 PM***
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace	*Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	***5:30 PM***
Mary the Queen Parish	*Madison St., Greenhills, San Juan*	***6:00 PM***
Christ the King Parish	*Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	***6:00 PM***
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish	*Asuncion St., Malate, Manila*	***6:15 PM***

The CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and* ***LEONY DASCO*** *and their children ROSSANA, ARLENE, VINCENT, ADOLF and JULIUS*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and* ***BENNY T. CLEMENTE*** *and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELIO*** *and* ***LIZA ROÑO*** *and their children RAYMUND and ABIGAIL, MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA, grandchildren TANIA ISABEL and ROMEO III*
- ***BELEN*** *and* ***ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR.*** *and their daughter ANTONIA*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and* ***EDGAR MARTIN*** *and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and* ***RAMON B. SANTOS*** *and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased),*

STEPMOTHER IN LAW, NELLY MONTILLA VDA. DE LOVINA,

BROTHER, CONRADO,

BROTHERS IN LAW, TEDDY H. LOVINA
BERT ACOSTA and
NONIE M. LOVINA,

SISTERS IN LAW, DING MATIAS Vda. de LOVINA
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA
NING LOVINA-VILLAR
NORMA DE GUZMAN Vda de LOVINA
CHING LOVINA-ACOSTA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO Vda. de LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS.

Economists heralding end to 11-month recession

WASHINGTON—Economists are already heralding an end to the US recession that began last March, although the outlook for the job market remains murky, with some analysts predicting rising unemployment during the recovery.

A slew of economic data seems to be pointing toward recovery, from the Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators, to the trend of diminishing weekly jobless claims.

On Thursday, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said the US economy was finally turning the corner.

"There have been signs recently that some of the forces that have been restraining the economy over the past year are starting to diminish and that activity is beginning to firm," he told Congress.

If the recession is ending, it will turn out to be one of the mildest on record, economists say, but that means the strength of the recovery will also be limited.

"In all likelihood, this recession is quickly approaching its end. In fact, it might be already over by most technical definitions," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo Bank.

But some analysts say that a "recovery" may do little to help the growing legions of the unemployed, and that the jobless rate may in fact continue to grow during the rebound.

"The terms 'recession' and 'recovery' mean different things to different people," said a report by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington research group.

"For many forecasters, a recovery refers to the point at which the economy stops shrinking and begins expanding as measured in terms of gross domestic product, or the output of goods and services. Working families, however, tend to think of recessions more in terms of unemployment, reduced weekly hours, lower wage increases and loss of family income."

The EPI said that GDP must grow at least 3 to 3.5 percent to prevent unemployment from rising. As a result, the group sees the current slow-growth scenario as leading to rising unemployment, from the current level of 5.6 percent to 6.5 by late 2002 and remain near that level in 2003.

"Long after the economy begins to grow again, and even after unemployment stops climbing, it may be years before the jobless rate returns to the 4 percent level enjoyed at the end of 2000, and years more before families see their incomes return to pre-recession levels," the EPI economists said.

The higher jobless rates will have a disproportionate economic impact on some segments of the population, including minorities, women, teens and blue-collar workers, EPI said.

"The recessionary conditions likely to occur this year means the difference between rising or stagnating living standards for middle- and low-income working families," the report said.

"It should thus come as no surprise that for many such families, positive GDP growth offers no solace when unemployment is rising."

However, other analysts say data shows the labor market is not as bad as feared.

"Recent jobless claims data suggests that the labor market is stabilizing and that the worst of the downturn is probably over," said economist Stan Shipley at Merrill Lynch after a report showing jobless claims fell an unexpected 15,000 to 376,000 to the lowest level since last July.

Shipley said that based on current trends, the monthly job loss for the US economy will be limited to 50,000 in January and that future months will see "small increases or small declines" as the economy recovers.

And some business executives laid off over the past year are finding it relatively easy to land new jobs, according to John Challenger, chief executive officer of outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas.

"The 2.7-month job search time for all (executive and managerial) job seekers in 2001 was the lowest annual average since Challenger began tracking such data in 1986," he said.

AFP

IMF official seeks deadline for Japan to end deflation

NEW YORK—A top International Monetary Fund and former Japan Finance Ministry official said on Friday that the Bank of Japan should set a deadline to end deflation and stop a cycle of falling prices in the world's second largest economy.

IMF Deputy Managing Director Shigemitsu Sugisaki said in an address at New York's Japan Society that even though the BOJ is operating in unchartered territory with its ultra-easy monetary policy, it has not run out of ammunition to stop deflation.

"My own view is that further efforts to expand base money should be pursued, within a framework in which the BOJ publicly commits to end deflation within a specific time frame of say, one year," Sugisaki said.

Sugisaki said beyond a one-year horizon, a strong case could be made for Japan aiming for a 2- to 3-percent rate of inflation to reduce the risks that the country again finds itself constrained with nominal interest rates at virtually zero percent.

Japan's government said on Friday that consumer prices fell in 2001 for a record third year in a row and reaffirmed its forecast of continued deflation with zero economic growth in the near term.

Faced with persistent price declines, the BOJ is under pressure to ease monetary policy aggressively.

But the BOJ's efforts to keep short-term interest rates at virtually zero and its experiment with so-called quantitative easing—in which it pumps huge amounts of excess liquidity into the money market—have yet to halt deflation.

Although deflation may seem to be good for consumers, it erodes corporate profits and squeezes debtors, while hindering Japan's money-losing banks, still desperate for government help, from clearing away their bad loans. ***Reuters***

Amazon chief says 'best yet to come' on the Internet

NEW YORK—The best in online commerce is yet to come, promises Jeff Bezos, the top dog at leading e-tailer Amazon.com, whose vision differs sharply with those who trumpeted the failure of the new economy in the late 1990s.

The company, which began six years ago as an online bookstore, has since expanded to carry everything from toys to tools to toiletries. And after 23 consecutive quarters of hemorrhaging money, the company, finally, announced a profit for the fourth quarter of 2001.

Amazon's popularity and, finally, financial solvency, runs counter to the gloomy predictions of naysayers who performed last rites for electronic commerce after the stunning failures of dotcom after dotcom over the course of 2000.

"In 1999, people had expectations that were too high about e-commerce. Then in 2000, people said the Internet is dead," Bezos told AFP in an interview.

"Of course, neither of those extreme points of view is correct. It's still the very beginning of e-commerce," said Time magazine's person of the year for 1999.

But even Bezos, whose enthusiasm was infectious and prompted massive infusions of cash from investors seemingly unconcerned about profits in the first years of Amazon.com's existence, injects a cautionary note to dampen his own online euphoria. "I wouldn't expect 1999 to happen again because that was irrational exuberance," Bezos said, alluding to a notorious statement made by Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan to describe the soaring flight of stocks listed on the tech-heavy Nasdaq index.

"What you'll see is methodical deliberate progress toward things that really serve customers well." ***AFP***

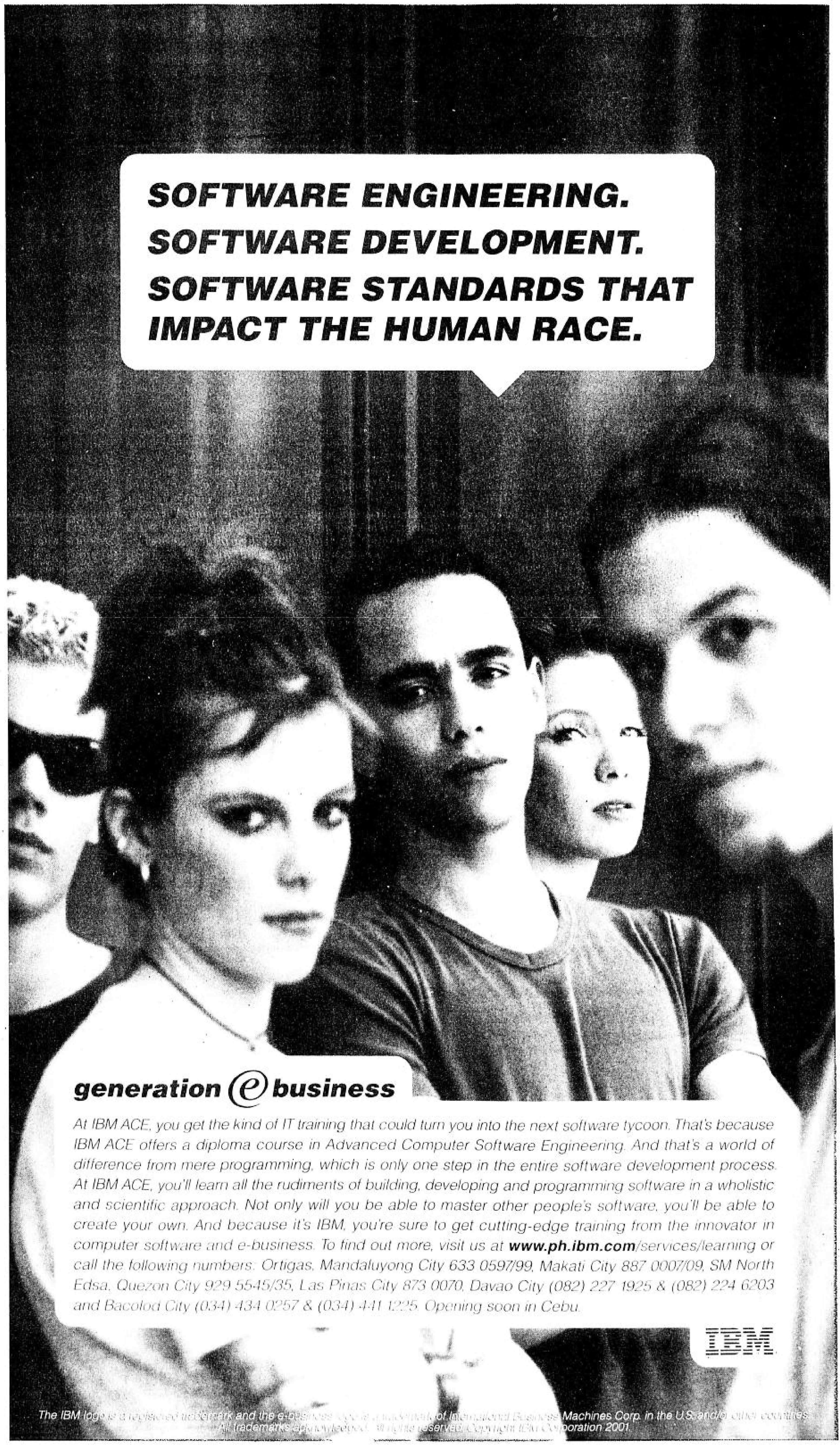
GM to recall 546,000 SUVs for faulty circuits

DETROIT, Michigan—General Motors on Friday said it was recalling some 546,000 sport-utility vehicles for faulty brake lights and hazard lights.

The automaker said it was aware of two accidents stemming from the problems, but no injuries.

The recall affects 2000-2001 model years Chevrolet Blazer, GMC Jimmy and Oldsmobile Bravada sport utility vehicles.

"The stop lamps in these vehicles may not illuminate when the brakes are engaged and the hazard lamps may not flash when the flasher button is pressed," said Michael Ableson, chief engineer of the vehicles. "An open circuit in a switch located in the steering column renders stop lamps and hazard lamps inoperative." ***AFP***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intel.

Is your cell phone safe from hackers?

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

CAN a malicious hacker send an SMS (short message service or text message) and crash a mobile phone? Are mobile phones immune to viruses, spam and worms? These are questions asked nowadays as computers and devices such as mobile phones and personal digital assistants become interconnected.

The idea of sending an SMS to crash a mobile phone seemed like a remote possibility until late last year when a Dutch security researcher revealed that it could be done.

Job de Haas, a security researcher at ITSX, showed participants of the Black Hat conference in the United States that a malformed message can crash a Nokia 6210 phone upon receiving it, according to an article in The Register.

How did De Haas do it?

A computer program, called "sms_client," was created, which in turn sent malformed SMS messages from an Internet-connected PC to a target device. The SMS follows a certain format, which when modified might cause a phone to freeze or shut down.

De Haas revealed that a bug in the phone's software caused the phone to freeze. The bug, he discovered, was also present in other Nokia models including the 3310 and 3330. It was also tried on a Siemens phone but was not discovered to have such a vulnerability.

To solve the problem, De Haas took out the SIM card of the affected phone and transferred it to another phone without the bug. De Haas found that the malformed SMS message will stay on the phone's memory but could be deleted using an SMS management tool.

Nokia said that it had encountered the bug before but was unaware of the exploit uncovered by ITSX at the time the article was written. Recently, Nokia claimed to have solved the problem, meaning the bug has been fixed.

Here's another case.

Early this month, a bug was discovered in some models of Siemens. A report posted on the "mobile.box.sk" website noted that the Siemens 3568i model (or below) also freezes whenever it tries to display so-called "special characters." The sketchy report said that there was a bug in the mobile phone's "display subroutine."

The SMS, which was likely malformed, cannot be removed from the phone without opening it, thus will remain on the phone's memory but can be deleted by a specific computer program posted on the website.

Siemens has yet to comment on the matter.

James Yaneza, senior anti-virus consultant for TrendLabs of Trend Micro Inc., said that the SMS-borne attack demonstrated by De Haas is related to an "error handling" function of mobile phones. As showed by De Haas, the target phones froze as a result of receiving a malformed SMS. Yaneza said that SMS messages follow a certain data format, which when modified, might cause a phone to freeze.

"Phones can only accept a certain standard format adopted by mobile networks," he said.

This data format is a form of packaging used to send packets of data through the GSM networks.

"If a wrong format is sent to a phone that has no error handling capability, who knows what will happen," he said.

This vulnerability, however, leaves the phone's software intact because it is embedded into the hardware, thus the name firmware.

He said that the usual solution to this SMS-borne attack is to upgrade the phone's software with the help of a phone manufacturer like Nokia or Siemens.

Security experts say that the SMS-borne attack on mobile phones takes advantage of the "security through obscurity" paradigm. This security paradigm means that the fewer people know about a certain vulnerability in a system, the lesser it is exposed to an attack.

"It is similar to a saying: Ignorance is bliss," said Albert de la Cruz, interim president of nonprofit security group Philippine Computer Emergency Response Team.

While most crackers still prefer attacking "popular" targets like Windows, De la Cruz admitted that the temptation to attack mobile phones has become stronger as this technology is becoming more ubiquitous. In the Philippines, however, there have only been isolated cases, he said.

And most of these incidents were "harmless." Still, this was no excuse to drop down one's guard against such attacks. Complacency saves no one, De la Cruz said.

Yaneza, for his part, cited the "Timofonica" incident in Spain last year, which demonstrated how phones that use the European GSM mobile standard could be a target of a massive attack.

Customers of a phone company called Movistar fell victim to a virus attack, which was propagated through a computer via the Internet. Though the attack only sent harmless SMS messages to a large number of subscribers, it showed that it could be done, Yaneza said.

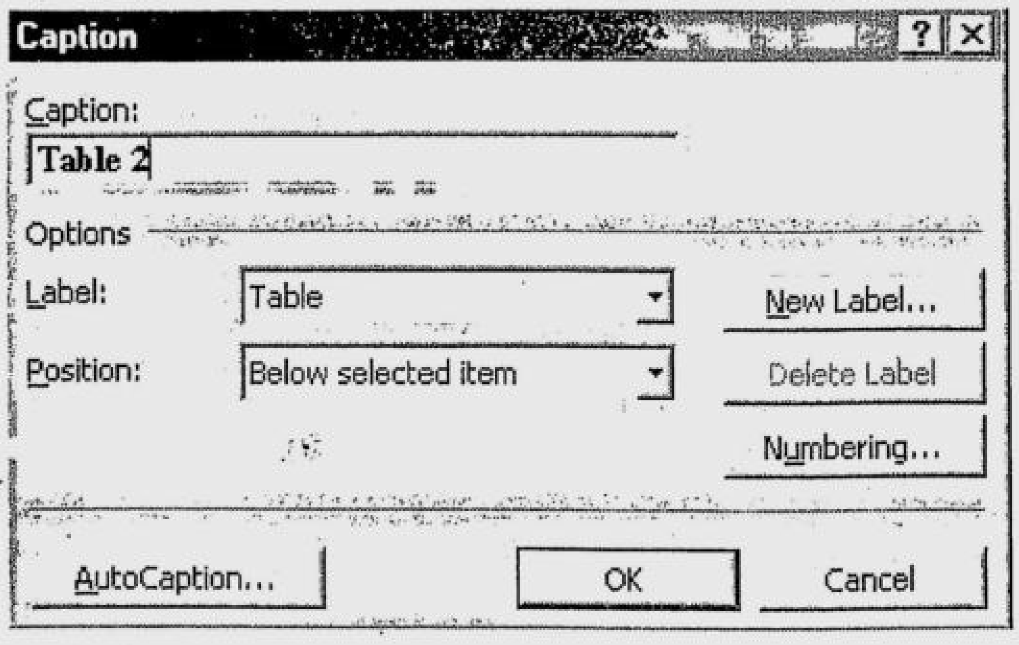
Unlike the ILOVEYOU virus, which wreaked havoc on millions of computers worldwide, the Timofonica virus (Timofonica roughly means "crappy" phone) spread annoying messages critical of the Spanish telephone firm Telefonica.

Timofonica, which was a worm written in Microsoft's VBScript programming language, found its way to the SMS gateway (the computer that sends text messages to the operator's subscribers). At the gateway, the worm randomly selected phone numbers and sent an SMS, thus bombarding people with text messages.

Last year, a similar phone virus also hit 911 systems in Texas.

Yaneza, however, said that phones themselves are immune to computer viruses. It is only possible if there is a "direct interface between SMS and the core functionality" of the phone. This means that the possibility of SMS damaging the phone's operating system embedded on hardware is still remote.

"Currently, error handling is the only way to attack phones," he said.



Caption: Table 2

Label: Table

Position: Below selected item

Table captions in Microsoft Word

By Jerry Liao

DO you produce and maintain a table of figures, table of tables or table of equations for your Microsoft Word document? Use Word's captioning function. Here's how:

(1) Open Word.

(2) Insert the figure, table or equation you want to caption then position the cursor where you want to insert the caption.

(3) Go to "Insert" then select "Caption."

(4) Under "Label," choose between "Figure," "Equation" or "Table."

(5) Under "Position," select where you want to your caption to be displayed.

(6) Click "OK."

(7) Add some text after the number then press "OK."

You can also create a summary caption for your tables, figures or equations by doing the following:

(1) Position the cursor where you want it to appear.

(2) Select "Insert / Index and Tables."

(3) Click on the Table of Figures tab.

(4) Select the appropriate entry from the "Caption Label" list and press "OK."

(5) If you want to update your table at any time, just select the whole document by pressing "Ctrl-A" then press "F9."

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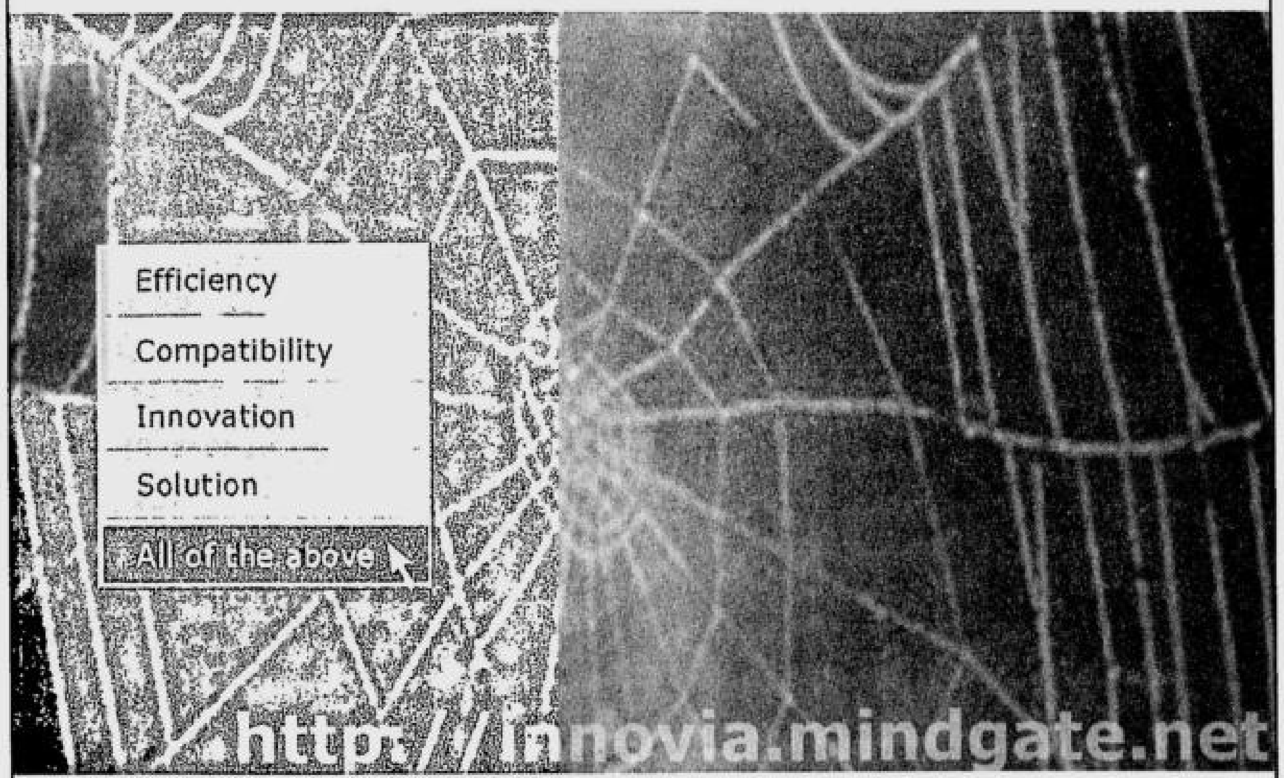

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BUSINESS

SSS seeks refund for housing losses

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SOCIAL Security System is asking the national government to reimburse it for expected losses from the planned sale of its P42 billion in housing mortgages.

In an interview, SSS president and chief executive Corazon de la Paz said she made the request to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in light of the likely low valuation of the pension fund's housing loans.

International investment bank Lehman Brothers and US-based fund Cereberus Partners Ltd. have expressed keen interest in acquiring the P42 billion in SSS mortgages lodged with the National Home Mortgage Finance Co., although they have yet to give an indicative price, De la Paz said.

However, according to industry sources, many foreign investment banks and funds looking to purchase bad loans and acquired assets of large banks have been offering to acquire them for anywhere from 20 to 30 centavos for every peso worth of assets.

At the high end of the price range then, SSS may have to book as much as P29.4 billion in losses since it will only be able to get P12.6 billion, or 30 percent, of the P42 billion in housing loans.

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BUSINESS*Monday*
Margie Quimpo-Espino, Business Features Editor

Is the Filipino worker globally competitive?

By Dennis M. Arroyo

IN a word, "Yes." We have a vast pool of skilled, educated, high-quality workers. The Philippines even tops a global ranking of 47 countries in the arena of information technology labor.

"The Philippines has an enormous competitive advantage in its large, literate (95 percent general and 88 percent functional literacy) and relatively cheap labor force," wrote a World Bank 1997 report called "The Philippines: Managing Global Integration."

Why this edge? The study notes that enrollment here compares well with that of the Philippines' Asean neighbors.

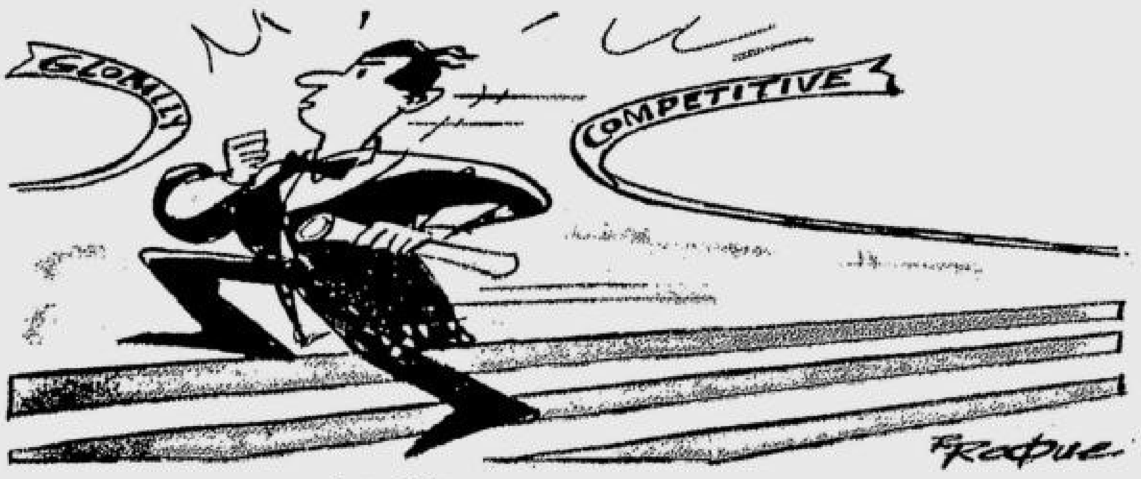
In the Philippines, 80 percent of high school-aged youth are enrolled in high school, according to the report. This ratio ranks third after powerhouses South Korea (99 percent), Japan (98 percent) and Taiwan (88 percent).

The Philippines' enrollment ratio for secondary school is way above those of Singapore (68 percent), Malaysia (61 percent), China (55 percent), Thailand and India (each at 49 percent), and Indonesia (45 percent).

The pattern is repeated for enrollment in college. Leading in enrollment ratios is South Korea (55 percent), then Taiwan (38 percent) and Japan (29 percent).

At fourth place is the Philippines (27 percent). The country's tertiary enrollment ratio is better than those of Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and China (Table 1).

IS/ C2



PERSONAL FINANCE

Actor invests in his culinary skillls, puts up resto

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TO MOST Filipinos, he is Mark Gil, a character actor who belongs to a family of great actors and actresses that includes siblings Cherie Gil and Michael de Mesa and parents Eddie Mesa and Rosemarie Gil.

But to many in the world of fine dining, he is known as Ralph Eigenmann, a self-styled "artisan chef" who has been known to whip up delectable dishes for family and friends since he was 14 years old.

"Cooking is my other passion aside from acting. I feel as fulfilled when somebody says they like the food I made for them as I am when somebody says they liked me in that recent role I played," Gil tells the INQUIRER.

It is in cooking that Mark Gil also put his business acumen to the test, having put up a restaurant in Dumaguete called Limelight which he soon plans to bring to Metro Manila.

Gil was inspired to cook by his Spanish maternal grandmother. He says she always cooked good food for the family and she allowed her young grandson to watch.

THE actor as a chef

By 14, he was forced to cook on his own as his parents did not allow the kids to wake up the maids when they want to eat at odd hours of the day. So he cooked for himself and he has not stopped ever since.

He proudly says that he is the only one among his brothers and sisters who knows his way around the kitchen.

"I cook all my meals myself. I refuse to let anyone including my wife Maricar into the kitchen when I am there because they might get burned or cut. I have had my fair share of cuts and bruises," Gil says.

He says he likes cooking different kinds of food, but it is Filipino food like the typical sinigang that he feels closest too.

Gil hesitates to call himself a real chef as he did not have any formal training. But then again he is also an actor, who never went to acting school.

He prefers to consider himself a chef in training who continues to pick up new things from other people to help him in his trade.

Gil put his culinary prowess to the test when he put up Limelight bar and restaurant over

ACTOR/ C2

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Is the Filipino worker globally competitive?

From page C1

The Filipino skilled worker is among the best in Asia, according to a 1999 study conducted by the Political and Risk Consultancy Ltd., Hong Kong. They are first-rate in quality, availability and cost. (Refer to Table 2. The study uses the following scale: zero is the highest grade and 10 the lowest.)

COMPETITIVENESS SCORES OF SKILLED LABOR ACROSS ASIA

Political and Risk Consultancy Ltd., Hong Kong, 1999

COUNTRY	QUALITY	AVAILABILITY	COST
THE PHILIPPINES	**3.60**	**3.00**	**2.60**
India	4.56	3.94	2.28
China	4.63	6.25	4.50
Singapore	3.55	5.09	3.91
Thailand	5.00	6.14	4.14
Japan	1.86	4.00	7.29
Vietnam	6.25	5.25	5.50
Taiwan	2.92	6.00	4.67
Indonesia	7.09	6.91	3.91
Hong Kong	4.35	4.60	6.77
Malaysia	6.25	7.00	4.38
South Korea	4.60	5.10	6.70

SCALE: 0 IS THE HIGHEST GRADE, 10 IS THE LOWEST

As regards quality, Japanese skilled workers lead with a score of 1.86, followed by the Taiwanese (2.92) and the Singaporeans (3.55). In fourth place are Filipinos (3.6). Hence, skilled workers in the Philippines are of higher quality than those in eight other Asian countries.

As regards availability of skilled labor, the Philippines tops the race, with a score of 3. India, with a population of now over a billion, follows at 3.94. In third place is Japan, with 4.

As regards cost, the nation with the lowest-cost skilled workers is India (2.28). in second place is the Philippines (2.6).

That's not all. The Philippines topped the job knowledge index of 47 countries of the Meta Group's Global New Economy Index 2000.

This knowledge job index is about the availability of workers with information technology skills, senior management competence and tertiary education.

According to Dr. Howard Rubin, Meta Group research fellow and the man behind the global IT index, the usual indicators of production are less relevant in the information age. "Currently, information processing capability is a better indicator of national competitive advantage," he said.

ENROLLMENT AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL ACROSS ASIA

Country	Tertiary Enrollment Ratios (percent enrolled in age group)
South Korea	55
Taiwan	38
Japan	29
THE PHILIPPINES	**27**
Thailand	21
Singapore	19
Malaysia	10
Indonesia	9
India	6
China	4

Here are the rankings of the Top 5:

The Philippines	4.17
Australia	4.15
United States	4.10
Canada	4.00
France	3.97

To win big, the Philippines must upgrade the quality of education in general. She must strengthen computer education, and the country must look for a niche of excellence in the global IT arena.

Actor invests . . .

From page C1

two years ago.

It has been serving continental and Filipino specialties to a growing crowd and he is seriously considering friends and customers' pleas for him to put up another one in Metro Manila.

He gave members of the lifestyle and food media a taste of what he can do when he was asked to be the celebrity chef during the third Fly Ace Mediterranean Getaway Dining Club held at Henry's Freestyle Cuisine/Cook's Studio along Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City.

Together with patron chef Henry F. Canoy, Gil put together a four-course meal that celebrated our Spanish culinary culture. He used Fly Ace's imported Mediterranean products that include Pietro Coricelli olive oil, Federici authentic pasta, Dona Maria's juicy olives and capers, and Dona Elena's Portuguese sardines and Spanish anchovies.

Aside from his restaurant, Gil also invests his money on property and later plans to venture into producing for television or shows for the stage.

Gil says he may not be a business graduate but he says he does it with the same passion that he gives his cooking and his acting.

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Management update

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Augusto L. de Leon

THE LONG holidays were truly an opportunity to catch up with reading and update practicing managers on the latest in business philosophy and practices. Several books have proven to be quite interesting, showing us what is new and what remains much the same.

While written as a post-script deconstruction to the Gulf War, "War and Anti War" by Alvin and Heidi Toffler provides perspective on the current transition toward a post-Sept. 11 world.

While the major shift toward global markets marches onward and a seamless global economy will eventually become a reality, the stark geopolitical reality of conflict cannot be ignored. Following a multi-chapter summary of the history of war, the Tofflers proceed to paint a picture of the world and its future conflicts.

While the tone of the book identifies Russia and China as the greater threat, one must remember that when it was written, Allied Forces had just pushed Saddam Hussein back into his own borders. Even then, however, the Tofflers were able to foreshadow both the increased role of religious zealotry in global conflicts and the escalation of conflicts between developing countries and the West.

Perhaps the greatest value of this book is that it highlights the value intelligent analysis of past and current events in order to determine future trends.

Shifting gears to lighter fare, "Individualized Corporation" by Sumantra Ghoshal and Christopher A. Bartlett provides easy reading on the major change in the concept of "modern organization."

Many management people in government and business are still locked in the organizational concept that is exemplified by the hierarchy of the military organization, or analogously, the Catholic Church.

In the late '50's, a study showing the Catholic as the most efficient organization was often cited by students in management, and what many consider as the updated version of the efficient organization is the so-called "divisionalized organization" of General Motors under the leadership of Alfred Sloan.

Business strategies seem to evolve faster than the organizations themselves. The book points out that many corporations today have adopted third generation strategies that operate within second generation organizations and are staffed by first generation level management competence. This discrepancy can even be more glaring in government organizations led by "technocrats."

The book cites new models, including those of 3M, GE and Intel in the United States, Kao in Japan, and ABB in Europe. More than the organizational boxes piled in pyramid form, the authors provided numerous insights on the philosophies and substance of the organization defines the purpose, process and people.

In my view, the book reflects what is now an essential requisite for organizational success. Organizational structures and actions have to adapt to the new reality that information systems have radically changed with the evolution of technology.

Those on the top of the old hierarchy no longer have exclusive advantage of information for decision making. Even those at the lowest rank can access information and can make information available to everyone in the organization without having to pass through the traditional chain of command.

The old rule of thumb that a manager can effectively have a span of control and supervision of eight people no longer hold. The levels and degree of delegation can be expanded to a greater extent as more decision making can be made independently in a more timely manner by lower rank managers.

The organization that has adapted to the new system has increased its human resource utilization and gained the advantage of time.

In the past, tradition played a primary thread in the structure that helped insure that the organization moved in a unified direction. Seniority was valued as the more senior had more sense of tradition in addition to information that has been accumulated. Business success had to do with being able to follow the path of the past. But innovation now rules the business environment. Flexibility and ability to move quickly is the norm for future action.

"Jack Straight From The Gut" by Jack Welch with John A Byrne is an autobiography of GE CEO Jack Welch. Most entertaining and a must for CEO's past, present and future. It starts with insights to what parents can do to raise their children if they aspire to have them move up the corporate ladder, the kinds of ethics and attitudes that are important to shape children's lives.

The rest of the book can also be read by average college students who want to prepare themselves become exceptionally effective CEOs. Jack's narration of his years and various strategies as CEO of GE provides clear insights on strategies and practices CEO's can replicate in their own organizations.

It should likewise be of interest to those involved in culture change and human resource management. The book shows how Jack W. managed to change the culture of the bureaucracy in an organization. This was done by executives and managers insisting on implementing the policy of "differentiation and reward" to upgrade and improve performance.

Differentiation is the process of rating people so that the top performers are rewarded while the poorest performers are weeded out on a yearly basis.

This autobiography is a far better read than "In Search for Excellence." This book tells us how to

MANAGEMENT C4

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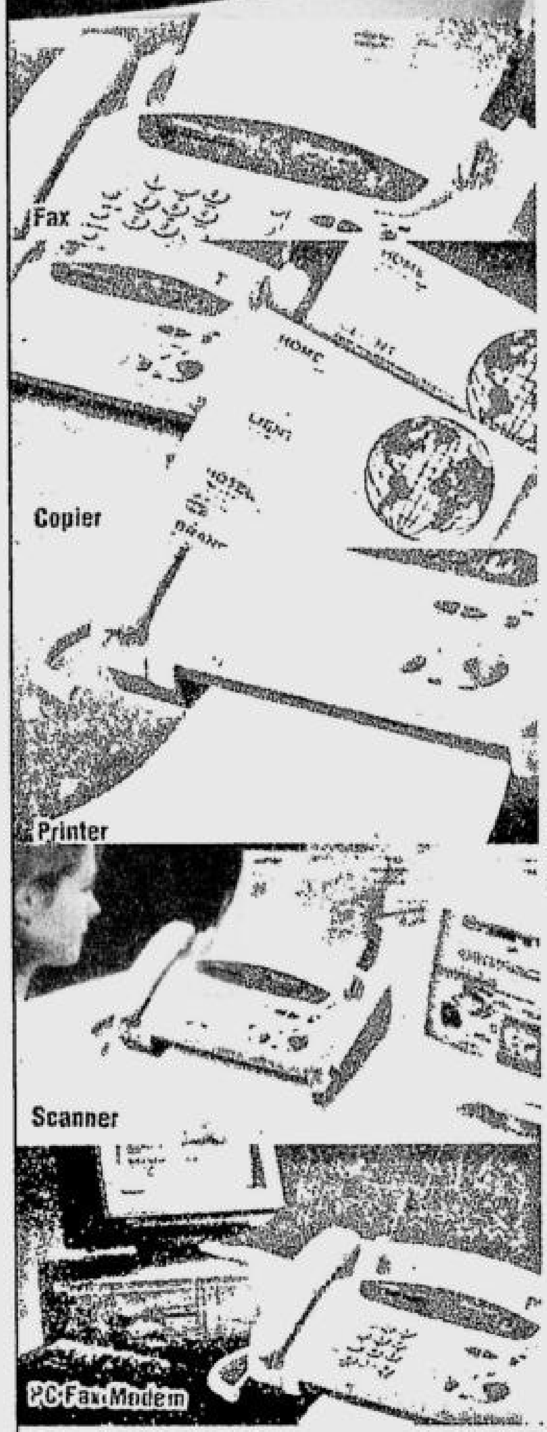

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Bankers open the year in upbeat mood

(FROM left) TREASURER Sergio Edeza with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Deogracias Vistan. PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MOOD was lighter, spirits were higher, and most made the effort to stay longer than they did last year.

This year's Bankers' Cocktails, the annual get-together of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the banking community, reflected the change in the general sentiment of the bankers compared with the glum mood that pervaded Fort San Antonio Abad last year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura departed from his usual talk about monetary policies and instead candidly discussed how he had survived a trying period last year when some groups had called for his resignation.

"I could not think of a more colorful term for a BSP governor," said Buenaventura, adding that the banking sector was stuck with him until 2005.

The members of the Monetary Board graciously hosted the affair until everybody went home satisfied, a bit tipsy, or both.

Unlike last year when the BSP gave guests a box of all-occasion art cards, everybody went home this year with P500 uncut bills the size of a coupon bond.

The fact that the BSP brought back the tradition of giving away uncut bills during the Bankers' Cocktails was already a sign that things were really getting back to normal.

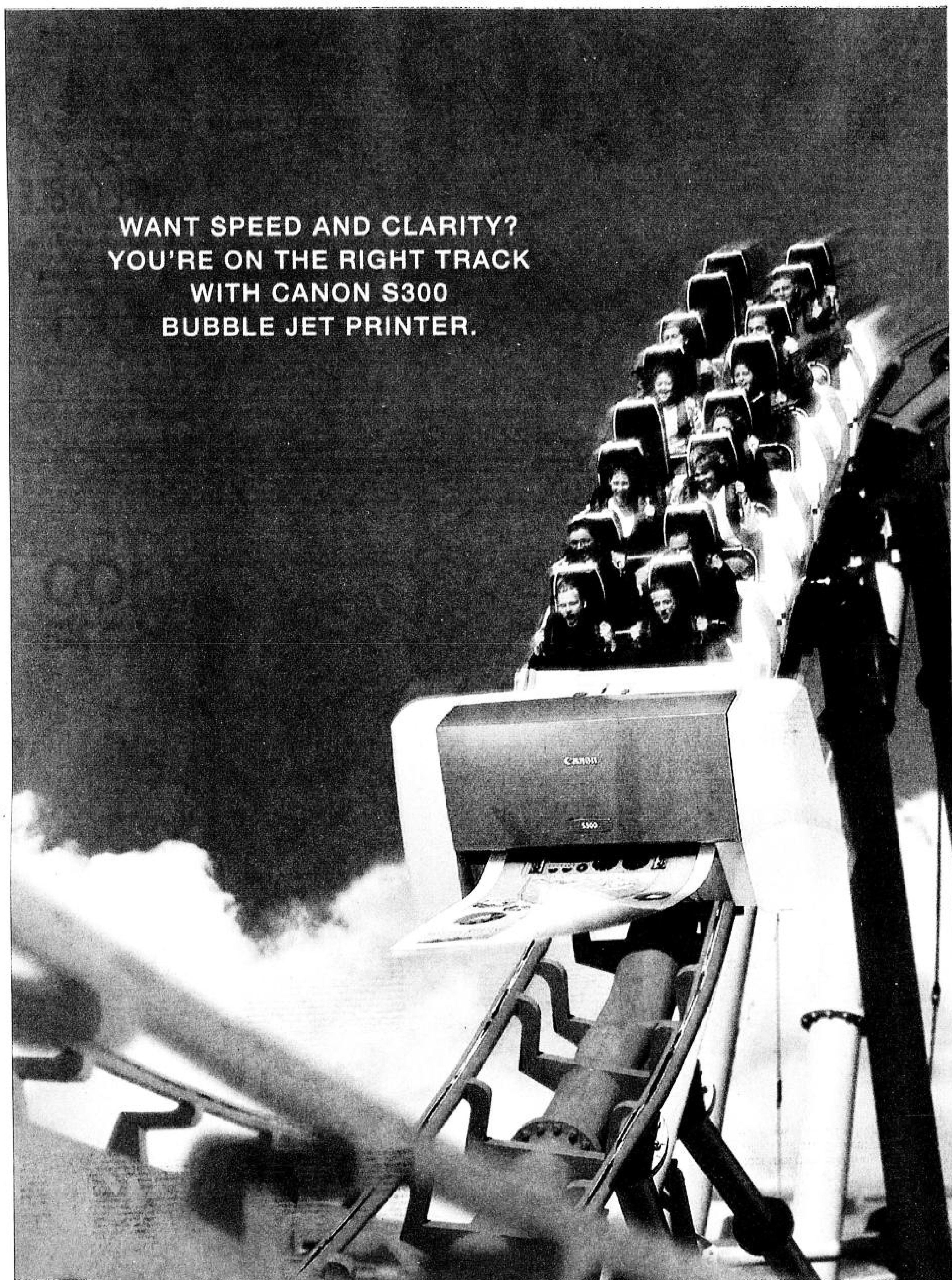
PLACIDO Mapa of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. shares a laugh with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Rafael Buenaventura.

MONETARY board member Antonino Alindogan (left) with Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan.

RCBC's Cesar EA Virata with Jaime Laya.

IBANK president Ramon Sy (right) with former BSP governor Gabriel Singson.

BANK presidents Rafael Simpao of Security Bank and Xavier P. Loinaz of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.



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Management . . .

From page C3

make an excellent organization lead people to perform and deliver profits and how to increase shareholders value.

More than a source of corporate management and strategy examples, it is an excellent book on leadership.

For an update on the latest management technique, The Six Sigma Way by Peter S. Pande, Robert P. Neuman, Roland R. Cavanagh is the book to read. Jack Welch adopted the technology in GE with outstanding success in the bottom line of each and every division of the organization.

I found the technique to be superior to the Total Quality System we have adopted in the '80s because the successful implementation of the Six Sigma systems can translate to improvements in the bottom line figures faster than the total quality system.

Adoption of Six Sigma forces the organization to define, streamline and close the loops of subsystems as well as major corporate systems. It forces the managers to measure performance on a daily basis.

The surprise is that after reading the book, one realizes that except for the discipline and determination to adopt and make the system work in an organization, the approach is not really too complicated. The employees and managers need not be too mathematically inclined nor do they have to have expertise in statistics.

It is a matter of measuring, of ensuring that what is done is done right, all the time and every time it is done. To attain 6 Sigma is to have a 99.9-percent performance yield. It is the best counter measure I have seen so far to the Filipino concept of *"puede na."*

(This article reflects the personal view of the author who is a member and past governor of Management Association of the Philippines and chair of De Leon Consulting. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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LIFESTYLE

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Arts/Design

Amid divisions, NCCA holds National Arts Month

SISTERLY LOVE. Anton Juan and Behn Cervantes in an excerpt from "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino"

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts, which has had its share of squabbles and controversies in the past, celebrates this year's National Arts Month in February with a call to peace. Celebrations will kick off on Friday, 7 a.m., at the Binhi ng mga Bayani, Agrifina Circle in Rizal Park.

Although it may seem timely, the theme "Your Piece for Peace" may sound a bit overused in the aftermath of 9/11. NCCA had already adopted the theme as early as July, says newly appointed executive director Maria Fina Yonzon during a recent press conference at the Orchidarium's Lush Life. Yonzon succeeded

AMID/ p.D2

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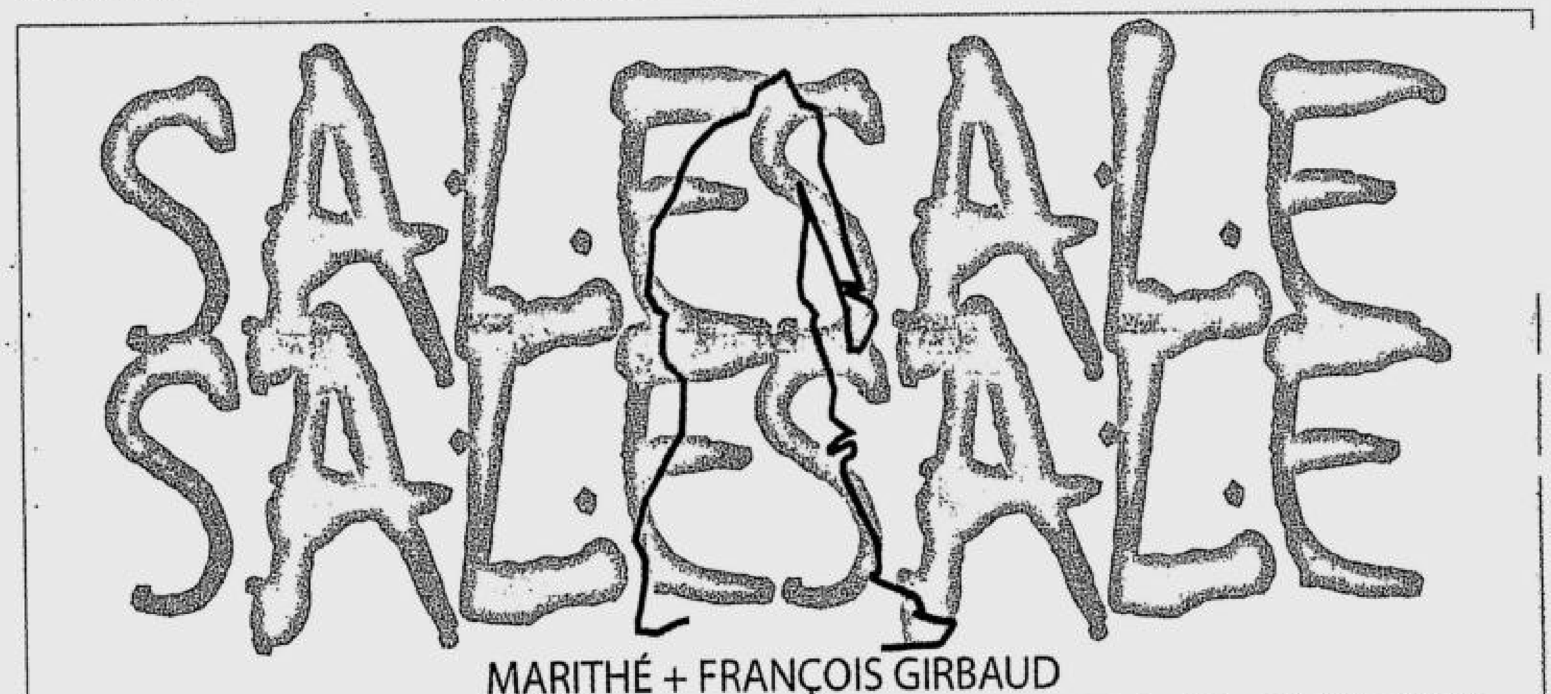
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POETRY IN MOTION. E-Dance Theater company

Amid divisions, NCCA holds National Arts Month

(From page D1)

poet, critic and academic Rio Alma who resigned in September.

Yonzon downplayed any perceived rivalry between and duplication of duties by NCCA and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which is one of the commission's active supporters, especially during arts month. Other supporting agencies are the National Museum, National Historical Institute, National Library, Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino and even the Records Management and Archives Office.

"Arts Month is a way of promoting not only the arts but cultural consciousness as well," says Yonzon. "Culture is broader and it includes a whole range—from our beliefs, practices, lifestyles and values system"

Also present during the press con were acting NCCA chair Evelyn Pantig, subcommission on cultural dissemination head Rodrigo Cornejo and subcommission on the arts head Ramon Santos. Former senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, presidential adviser on culture and the arts, and actress Boots Anson-Roa also graced the affair.

Elusive peace

In a country where peace has become more elusive by the day, the theme may have been actually inspired by an earlier event: the May 1 riots involving Estrada loyalists that nearly toppled President Macapagal-Arroyo's 3-month-old administration. Or perhaps even earlier when members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf began its kidnapping spree two years ago.

NCCA executive director Maria Fina Yonzon and Dr. Ramon Santos, head of the subcommission on the arts

FORMER senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani and Tourism Undersecretary and acting NCCA chair Evélyn Pantig

"Messages of peace and unity need not be explicit," said Santos. "There are certain elements in the selection of the activities that are necessary in achieving peace."

The active participation of children, both as audience and performers, for instance, provides both organizers and the public with fresh takes on old subjects. The occasion has also become a venue for fostering unity among artists of various disciplines—from the visual to the performing arts—as they share their talents with Filipinos based in various parts of the country.

Several Metro Manila-based performers showed excerpts from their respective performances. Indeed, there was something for everybody as the mini show began with "Peace na Tayo," a 40-minute puppet show featuring ventriloquist Ony Carcamo and sidekick Dodong, an endearing dodo bird that refuses to admit that he has the flu.

Based on the 10-minute preview, the show is a definite crowd-pleaser, especially among children, as the talented Carcamo talked, sang, sneezed and made funny gestures through his feathered puppet friend. He and Dodong will be touring various grade schools in Metro Manila.

If you go for modern dance, the E-Dance Theater will do several performances at the Shangri-La Mall, CCP Little Theater and several other venues. The Philippine Madrigal Singers will also lend their brand of music.

Most awaited

Still, the latest restaging of Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," directed by Anton Juan, is easily the most awaited and perhaps most controversial piece in the NCCA calendar.

Juan and Behn Cervantes, both veteran stage actors and directors, will essay the roles of sisters Paula and Candida, respectively. This time, of course, they're playing Pablito and Candido, two aging and penniless brothers competing for the attention of a male boarder named Tony Javier. More than its homosexual undertones, however, it would be interesting to see how Juan and Cervantes interact and steal the thunder from each other as they essay their respective characters.

ONY Carcamo and Dodong

Which leads us to ask: Are local audiences ready for such a reincarnation of a Nick Joaquin classic?

"Their powerful performances will carry the production," says Yonzon. "Besides, a growing number of Filipinos have now become more gender-sensitive."

Immediately after the arts month, NCCA again tackles the thorny issue of electing a chair based on nominees submitted by cultural associations and its very own search committee. The chair must be a member of the board, meaning he or she should at least be chair of any of the four subcommissions. Those with no ambitions to become chair are asked to join the search committee.

Culture patron and former chair Jaime Laya had resigned in December. Earlier, Shahani had expressed more than a passing interest in the chairmanship even before Laya gave it up. But she has to be at least a subcommission chair to land in the NCCA board and be elected as NCCA chair. Other names being mentioned for the post are Foreign Undersecretary Rosario Manalo, Ramon Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera and former CCP artistic director Nick Tiongson.

If the nomination goes well, peace could finally reign in the country's premier cultural and arts commission.

Call NCCA at 527-2192 locals 612 to 615 or e-mail at info@ncca.gov.ph for details

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Arts Month at Shangri-La Plaza

IN SUPPORT of culture and the arts, Shangri-La Mall joins the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in celebrating "Your Piece for Peace" National Arts Month 2002 in February under the theme "Art for Peace." The mall will be one of the hosts for the grand launching featuring a new promising group, E-Dance Theater, and the University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors (Upsa) at the newly refurbished Grand Atrium on Level 2 on Feb. 2 and 3.

Shangri-La Plaza GM Lala Fojas and NCCA executive director Ma. Fina Yonzon will formally open the celebration.

E-Dance Theater, a new group of professional dance artists who seek to offer new dimensions in the field of dance through collaborative experiments with other artistic fields, will present its premiere production titled "Concert Version 1.0." The show, directed by Paul Morales, is an interactive dance concert in collaboration with filmmaker Chuck Escasa, librettist Nick Pichay and visual artist Jose Santos III. The Shangri-La performance will kick off the E-Dance concert series scheduled for the Arts Month celebration. Performing are Gerald Mercado, Paul Morales, Dwight Rodrigazo, Orlando de Leon, Katrina Santos-Mercado, Nina Habulan and guests Cherry Medina, Nino Guevarra and Alvin Aficionado.

Back-to-back with the dance concert is a performance by the Upsa who will enthrall mallers with its award-winning numbers. Fresh from its highly successful 3rd International European Tour and Competitions, the group will be performing 13 pieces ranging from classical to contemporary as well as a showcase of Filipino tunes like "Isang Lahi," Ryan Cayabyab medley, among others. Upsa garnered eight first prizes and eight other special awards in tour, including the Diregentenpreis (conductor's prize) for Upsa founder and conductor Ed Manguiat at the 2nd Johannes Brahms International Festival and Choir Competition in Germany.

E-DANCE Theater choreographers Dwight Rodrigazo, Paul Morales and Gerald Mercado

E-Dance Theater's members, on the other hand, are professional dance artists who have performed with established dance companies and have been noted for their talent in performance and choreography. It also boasts of members who have enjoyed dance scholarships in prestigious schools abroad like Morales (British Council and Laban Center of London) and Rodrigazo (Brumachon Dance Company of Nantes, France). Mercado, who choreographed "E-Dance Concert Version 1" with Morales, was recently part of the Asean Flagship Voyage of Denisa Reyes' "Realizing Rama" Tour 2000-2001 in Europe and Southeast Asia.

Admission is free. Call 633-7851 local 110.

Singapore Airlines special tour package

SINGAPORE Airlines is offering a series of special tour packages to popular destinations like Australia, USA, New Zealand, Europe, Maldives, Bali, South Africa, Nepal, Singapore, with a Singapore-Kuala Lumpur cruise thrown in. Dubbed "AfFares to Remember," all packages are inclusive of round-trip airfare on SIA's new economy class, meals as specified, and a minimum one-night accommodation in Singapore.

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Actor's Actors' 'Promises, Promises' shows there's more to the '60s than Austin Powers

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

BERNARDO Bernardo plays Dr. Dreyfuss, the comic relief in 'Promises'

ACTORS Actors Inc., justly recognized for staging thought-provoking, intense materials which only a few would dare tackle for their daring and intellectual demand, is finally doing a musical. Yet, though the 1960s-era "Promises, Promises" easily brings back hippie memories of laid-back hedonism, aided in no small part by Burt Bacharach's lilting music, the company is staying true to form. As concert queen and cast member Rachel Alejandro puts it, "There's more to the '60s than Austin Powers!"

And that something more, according to colleague Michael Williams, are the underlying tensions and frustrations seething underneath the bubblegum miniskirts, kaleidoscopic colors and free love. He cites the Dionne Warwick hit song mostly associated with the musical. "The music is bubbly, but the text is not. Listen to the lyrics: 'What do you get when you fall in love? A guy with a pin to burst your bubble?'"

Neil Simon, the Broadway king of comedy, may have written the script, but "you can mine it for depth."

Mad rush

Basically, the story revolves around Williams' character Chuck Baxter, "a low-rung executive who wants to get ahead." However, during his mad rush down the yellow brick road, he stumbles and falls in love with Alejandro's Fran, a spunky waitress involved with married big shot Jeff Sheldrick (Lee Robin Salazar). Sheldrick is everything that Chuck is not but wants to be: debonair, rich, successful, in control, on top of the world. Not surprisingly, Chuck finds himself at the losing end of this love triangle.

On the surface, the story appears to be another feel-good, escapist musical-comedy, but given AAI's tendency for edge and irony, audiences can probably expect to feel some kind of bite at the end.

Williams describes a little of director Bart Guingona's approach. "Underneath all the psychedelic are people not getting what they want. It's about the intrinsic human drive to reach for more, only to reflect afterward: 'Why am I not getting what I want? People in the '60s learned that there was a consequence to all that levity they were experiencing.'"

Accomplished

Acting as the wise, streetwise, if occasionally avuncular foil to all that superficial fun is Dr. Dreyfuss, essayed by accomplished film and TV veteran actor Bernardo Bernardo. The self-described senior citizen of "Promises, Promises" occasionally casts off the onscreen fag roles he has been typecast in by stretching his artistic muscles on stage. TV viewers used to his histrionics in "Home Along Da Riles" would hardly recognize him as the shady, calculating Simoun (Tanghalang Pilipino's "El Filibusterismo") or Iago, the Machiavellian bringer of doom in Dulaang UP's "Othello."

Like their characters, the cast members have their own fervent dreams about theater, fighting to support the industry in the face of an economic crunch that has depleted a lot of the corporate sponsorship.

Alejandro, who will be doing a Valentine's Day concert with famous dad Hajji, is grateful that she has found her theater niche. Salazar, an ardent fan of "edgy" character actors like Marlon Brando, Anthony Hopkins and Christopher Walken, plans to study theater in the US.

Bernardo wants to go beyond his one play a year, in time doing the really heavy stuff like the titular "King Lear."

Partially answering why he does very little stage work these days, Bernardo laments tongue-in-cheek, "I keep auditioning for Repertory Philippines, but it doesn't give me the roles I like." One enthusiastic call to AAI hinting about his services after watching the company's acclaimed "Art" a couple of years ago didn't get him a return call, either. Hopefully, "Promises, Promises" will open more doors.

Williams, sounding like his feisty character gearing up for a fight, says firmly, "We cannot let the economy defeat us. Theater is needed now than before. Luckily, sponsorship is picking up a little more. We also have a lot of people who are supportive of AAI and believe in our vision. We are grateful to them for doing this." The effort goes beyond AAI to a "long-term effect of keeping theater alive in this country."

AAI's production of "Promises, Promises," written by Neil Simon, music by Burt Bacharach, and lyrics by Hal David, runs at Onstage Greenbelt Theater for three weeks starting Feb. 1. Call 536-5844 and 891-5610.

Twin bill at FEU

IN CONNECTION with the observahce of Far Eastern University's 74th found ing anniversary, the FEU President's Committee on Culture will present at the FEU Auditorium a twin bill of one-act plays on Jan. 29, 10:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., at the FEU Auditorium. Titled "Sa Ngalan ng Ama" by Roberto Jose de Guzman, it is directed by Prof. Normita C. Cadiz, and National Artist for Theater Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana's adaptation of "The New Yorker in Tondo" by Marcelino Agana Jr. under the direction of Dr. Rustica C. Carpio with mixed casts of faculty members and students, also at the FEU Auditorium.

On Jan. 30, at 10:45 a.m., PCC will present "Musical Horizons," a concert of songs, bamboo music and dances featuring the FEU Choral Group under Prof. Amelia Asis, FEU Pangkat Kawayan conducted by Prof. Victor Toledo and the FEU Dance Troupe under Prof. Irma Lopez-Escobia.

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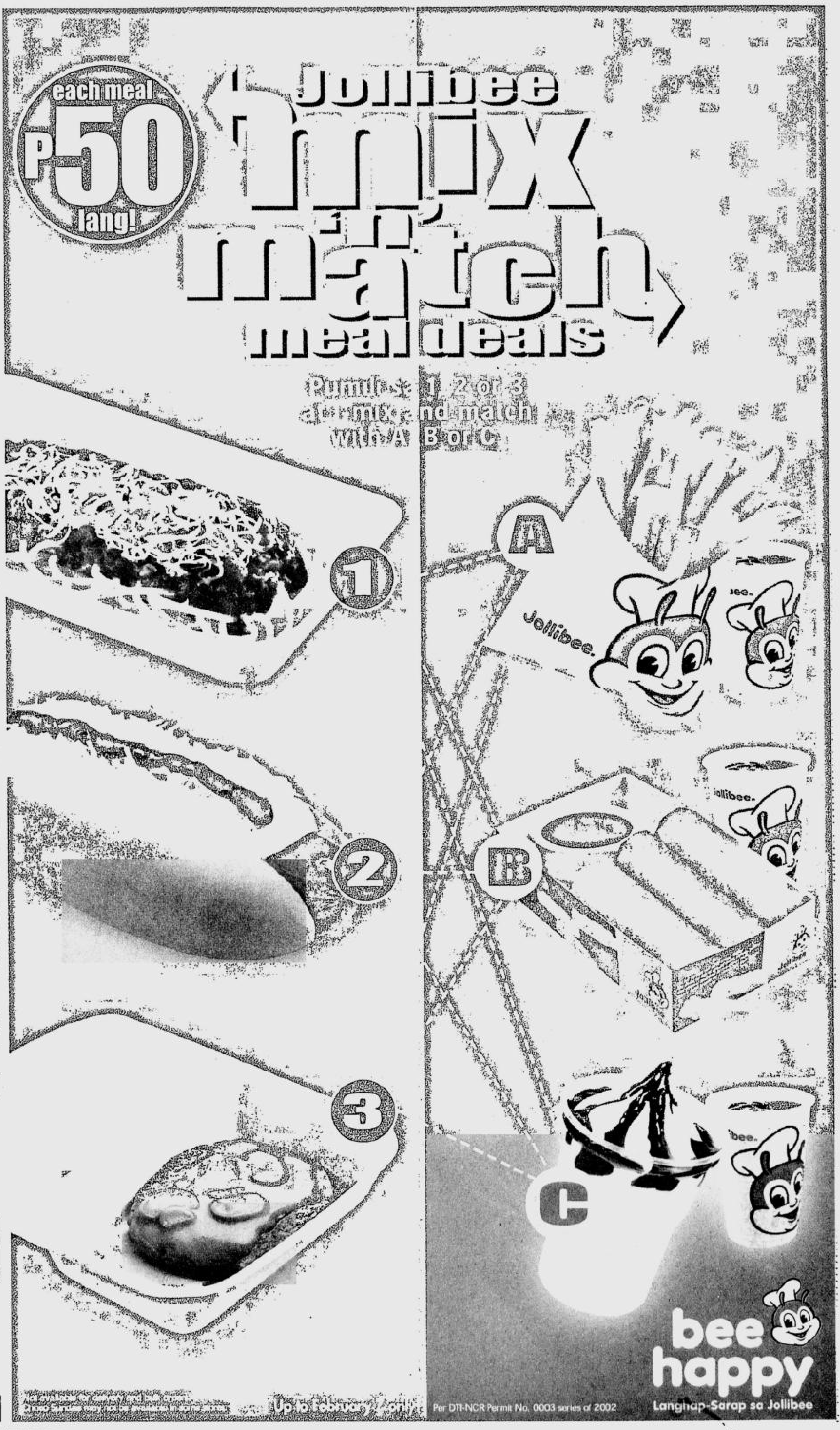
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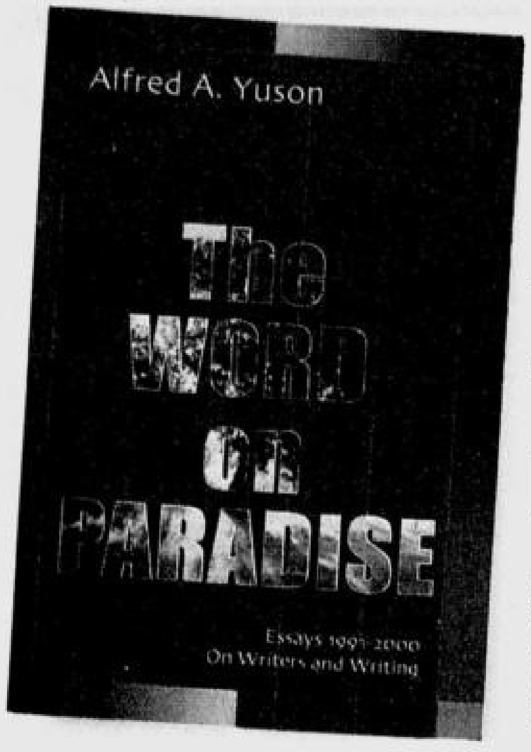
Books

Krip Yuson in his inimitable frisky, witty, cynical and glib self



The Word on Paradise: Essays on Writers and Writing, 1991-2000
By Alfred Yuson
Anvil Publishing Inc., 324 pp.

By Ophelia A. Dimalanta
Contributor

REVIEW

A WRITER-FRIEND commented over lunch at Rockwell Center that this book by Alfred (a.k.a. Krip) Yuson "The Word on Paradise" is difficult to review.

I did not know what she meant then although I readily agreed. I had just managed to leaf cursorily through the pages in between a hectic and rather tight holiday vacation sked, but after going through it more seriously and thoroughly, I began to realize what she meant, although I'm not sure now if we share the same reason.

About a book like this, one is bound to be personal, but then again, aren't book reviews supposed to be to a certain degree personal? Personal not in the sense of it being not disinterested, but in the sense that it is one critic's own personal views, not necessarily biases. No comment on literature after all can be all that dispassionate, detached, absolute and final; no critic pronounces gospel truths and foisting them on the universe. Each comment is meant to be, well, personal which the reviewed takes good-naturedly depending on his untouchability, born of a measure of self-confidence, self-worth, stability and authority.

Quoting Krip himself in his "In Defense of Imagination" (which I personally laud and agree to on the whole), "I've learned to live and let live, to write and let write, to speak and let speak... I remain unrepentant." This was occasioned by a criticism of his novel "Great Philippine Jungle Energy Café."

Allow me then to be as personal as I can get (even perhaps mentally taking stock of the number of times one's name has been cited via the index, favorably or otherwise, reverently or not quite so).

Abundant sprig

This book of 75 essays revolving around the subject of writers and writing and suchlike, is itself one abundant sprig of personal memories, laden with personal insights and off-the-cuff, sometimes offbeat, comments on literature and litterateurs, "gossip, trivia, confessions, laudations, peeve-clearing," rather not too subtle about his faves and peeves, warm reminiscences on friends and friendships, associations, attachments lasting or of the moment, fascinations, preoccupations mundane or otherwise, observations profane or otherwise, a veritable trove of who's who, who's not, what's with whom, what-where-when, of what's happening in the contemporary literary scene, bits and pieces and hodgepodge of details and info culled from his journalistic-literary vagabondage all over and outside the country, always there where it happens.

A writer whose name has been missed in all of the 75 essays within all of a decade can always try to make it to Krip's next volume, Part 2, another decade from now.

Fact is, it isn't so much his own personal reflections on the sundry countless personalities that people his book which make this book interesting, to say the least, as those on the literary climate, its troughs, and peaks, through his observations in the course of launches, workshops, literary competitions that he has taken part in, the literary gatherings turned booze-outs which become a hell of a paradise where the writers contemplate on and decide the fate of Philippine literature. And as always, these are lovingly recorded in Yuson's inimitable frisky, witty, cynical and glib manner. As critic, he is empiricist, at times eschewing lofty pronouncements in favor of expedient insights.

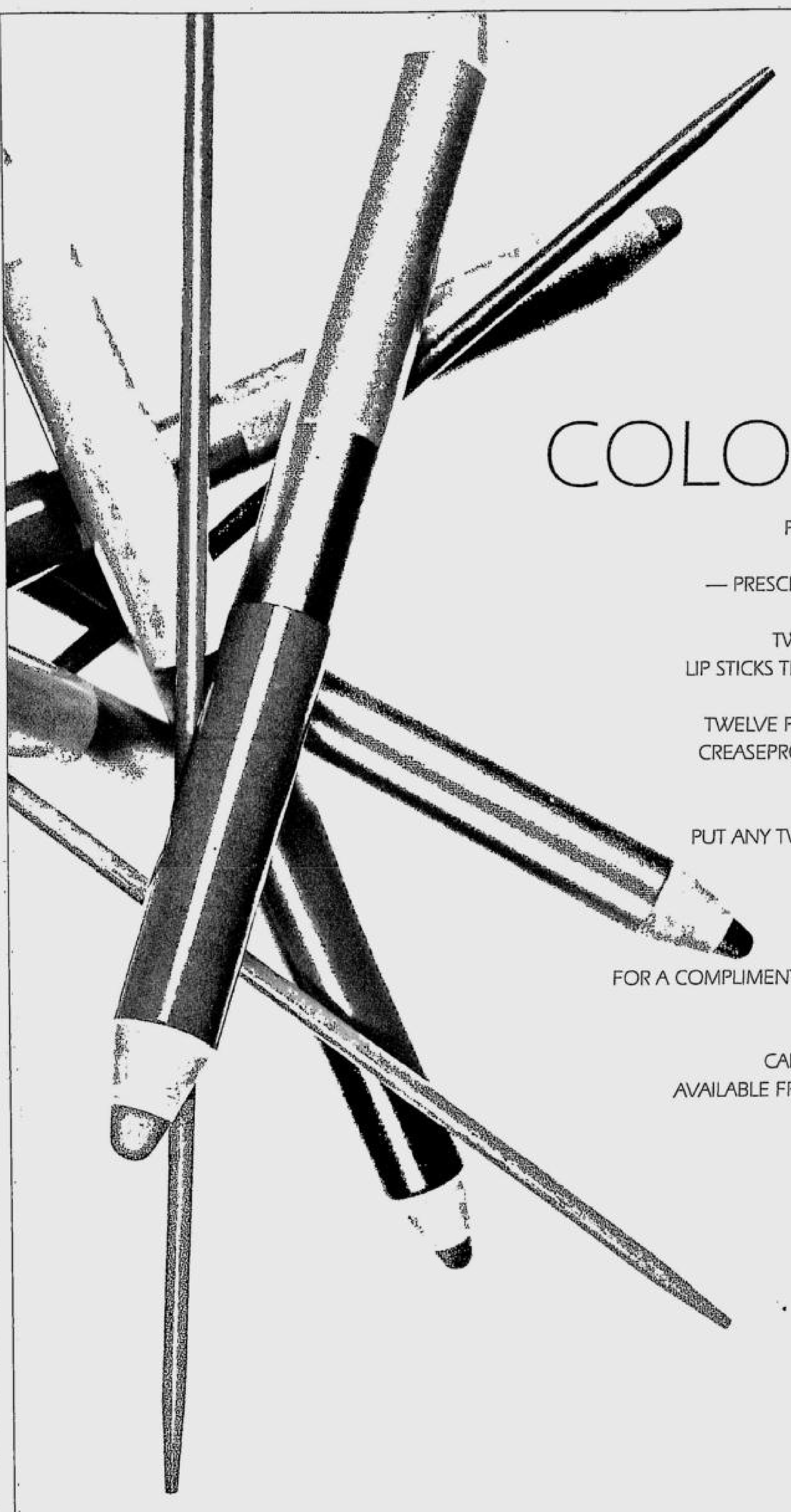
I passionately agree with some of his offhand remarks on literature like: "Poetry has never sold, and that's the beauty of it. If it did, like pancakes, then the field would open up in no time to the dubiously exalted efforts relating to mass manufacture." Or quite facetiously, "Life as a literary judge takes you through free meals and any corners of other mind's worlds...the impartiality and judiciousness remain except perhaps over the questions of what and where the next executioner's meal will be."

"The critic has little right to render value judgment on the intention of the creative writer, and a work should be measured only in terms of whether the execution falls short of the intention." Already a tall order.

I do not however agree with his rejection in poetry of what he perhaps considers frayed and wearied subjects like sunsets, keening love, etc. . . For there are really no new poetic materials, only old ones refurbished and made to shine like new, seen and viewed as they are in a different light, and executed in a startlingly new way. And all poems are finally about keening love in all forms and voices; otherwise the poet wouldn't be what he is, strange and favored creature. And writing thus, he celebrates self, and toasts the universe.

Let us allow Yuson his special preferences and predilections, his special people and places (his confreres at the Philippine Literary Arts Council, for instance) and how he goes all soft and rhapsodic over his Dumaguete sojourns, the Tiempos (Oh, so understandably!), his traipsings abroad;

KRIP/ p.E4



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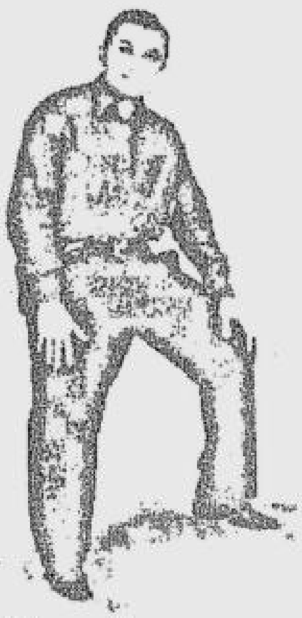

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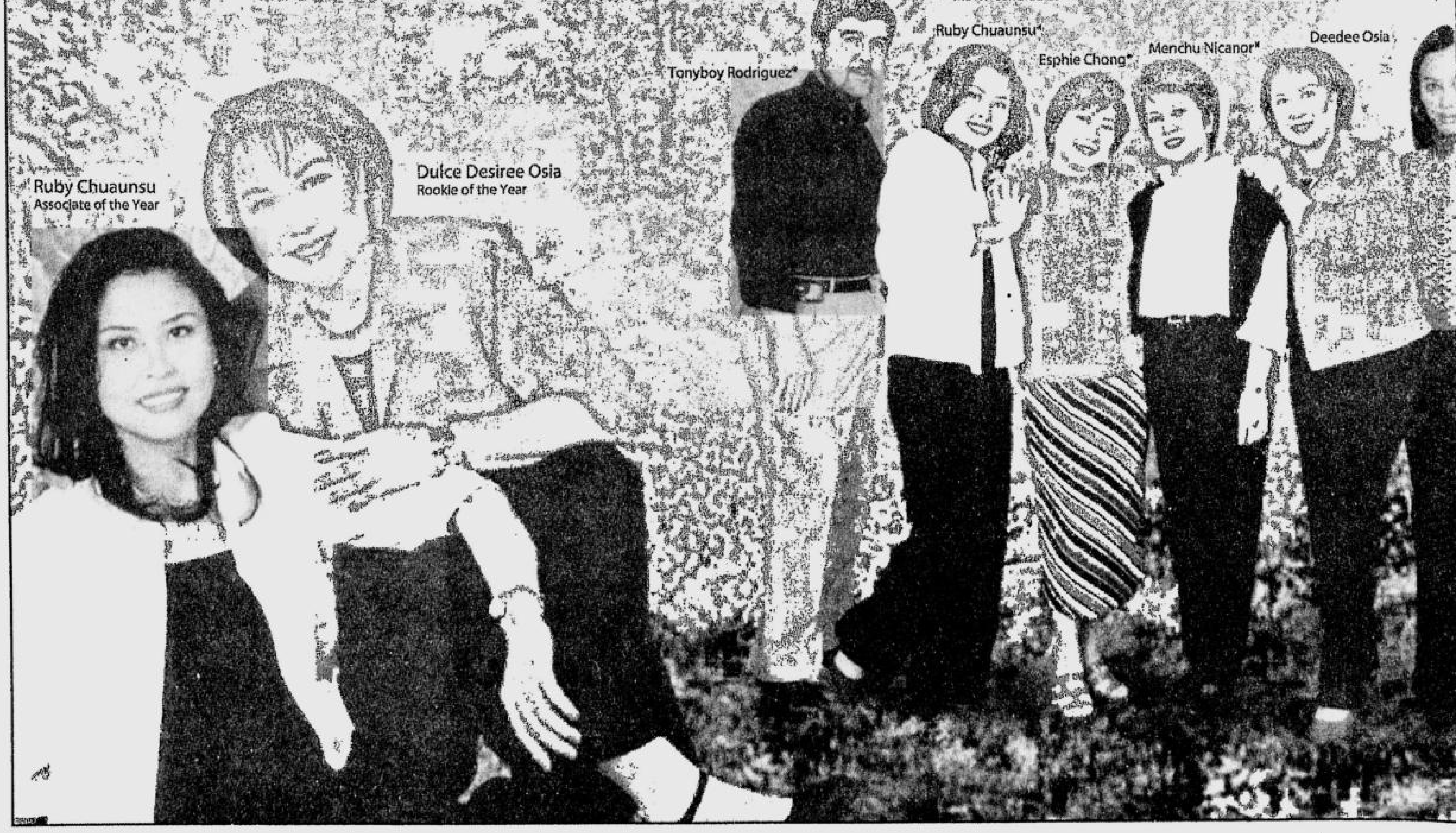

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Book launch, lecture, Masses to mark Salvador Araneta birth centenary

PILIPINAS
P5

DON SALVADOR Z. ARANETA
1902 BIRTH CENTENARY 2002

SALVADOR Araneta, the much-respected and well-remembered nationalist, constitutionalist, educator, economist and industrialist, will be honored on Jan. 31 in a series of tributes and celebrations marking the centenary of his birth.

Foremost of these tributes will be the presentation of a commemorative stamp in his honor issued by the Philippine Postal Corp. and the launch of three books containing his writings and speeches, both at the Filipinas Heritage Library at the Ayala Triangle on Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The celebration begins with the simultaneous holding of 100 Masses at 6 a.m. all over the country, followed by a concelebrated Mass at 9:30 a.m. at the Our Lady of Victory Chapel at the Araneta Compound in Potrero, Malabon, to be officiated by Bishop Rolando J. Tria Tirona of Malolos.

Dr. Araneta was a distinguished member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and Order of St. Sylvester. He was an active member of the Legion of Mary, which led to his close association with Fr. Patrick Payton and the Family Rosary Crusade in the Phils. The concelebrated Mass will be followed by the unveiling and blessing of the historical marker of the National Historical Institute (NHI) at the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation campus, with Dr. Pablo S. Trillana III, executive director of the NHI, as presenter.

The P5 commemorative stamp bears Dr. Araneta's portrait by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo; the first-day cover is priced at P10. Postmaster general Nicasio Rodriguez Jr. will do the presentation and ceremonial cancellation and autographing of the commemorative stamps.

The Bayanikasan Research Foundation and Sahara Heritage Foundation, chaired by Lina Araneta-Santiago, daughter of Dr. Araneta, have published Dr. Araneta's collections of writings and speeches in three volumes: "Bayanikasan Constitution," "Christian Democracy for the Philippines" and "World Government Charter and Supporting Views."

In these collections, says Araneta-Santiago, who has remained faithful to the memory of her father, Salvador Araneta's voice rings loud and clear again as he calls for "a change of heart, ideas, values and institutions motivated by his desire for peace in the country and in the world," a call that remains as relevant today as it was during his time.

The relevance of his ideas will be the focus of a whole-day symposium on Feb. 1 at Balay Kalinaw corner Guerrero-Dagohoy Streets, UP Diliman. Organized by the Philippine Constitution Association, SHF and the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, it is called "Symposium on Economic Ideas and the Philippine Constitution." The high-caliber roster of speakers includes Dr. Alejandro Lichauco, Dr. Emmanuel de Dios, Dr. Cayetano Paderanga, Dr. Walden Bello and Dr. Gerardo Sicat.

Dr. Araneta, founder and twice president of Philconsa, was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1933 and 1971. He served as secretary of Economic Coordination under President Quirino and secretary of Agriculture under President Magsaysay while serving as member of the National Economic Council.

He founded the Gregorio Araneta University foundation and Feati University, which was originally intended to train engineers and mechanics for Far Eastern Air Transportation Inc., the first airline to operate after the war serving local destinations as well as China and San Francisco in the United States. He was also one of the founders of the airline.

Dr. Araneta pioneered in the flour industry (RFM Corp.), soybean extraction (Republic Soya), the manufacture of electric motors (Feati Industries), animal feeds (AIA Feed Mills) and animal vaccines (AIA Biological Laboratories).

He was cofounder of the National Economic Protectionism Association, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and the White Cross, an orphanage.

He was responsible for the Filipinization of credit, a protective measure limiting foreign borrowing from local banks, and was hailed by the Chamber of Filipino Retailers as the Father of the Idea of the Filipinization of the Retail Trade.

Lecture-forums on postcolonial literature, Catholic writing at UST

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS) will hold lecture-forums on postcolonial theory and on Catholic literature on Jan. 30 at the CCWS conference room, 1/F, St. Raymund's (AB-Commerce) Building, UST campus, España, Manila.

The activities are UST-CCWS' tribute to the 391st founding anniversary of the UST, Asia's oldest university.

At 9 a.m., the CCWS will hold the USTingan, its traditional round-table discussion on sundry literary issues. To tackle postcolonial theory and practice are Oscar Campomanes, chair of the Department of Literature and Philippine Languages of De la Salle University, and Ma. Luisa Torres, asscociate professor of the Department of English of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Reactors include Cynthia Rivera, director of the UST Center for Intercultural Studies; Michael Coroza, junior associate of the UST-CCWS and professor at the Ateneo de Manila University; and Ferdinand Lopez, coordinator for literature of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

At 2 p.m., the Center will hold the University Week Forum on "Religion and Literature." Invited speakers include poet-critic and UST-CCWS senior associate Cirilo Bautista; former UST rector and Catholic Authors Award recipient Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, O.P.; and poet and Ateneo professor D.M. Reyes.

Reactors include Milagros Tanlayco, chair of the Council of Chairpersons of Departments of English and author of "Paul Claudel, Catholic Dramatist"; Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta, poet-critic and director of the UST-CCWS; and Lito Zulueta, writer-critic and coordinator for journalism of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

The lecture-forums are open to the public. Call 731-3101, local 8281.

Krip Yuson . . .

(From page E1)

in fact, part of the enchantment of the book lies in our seeing his heart thumping all over the place at spots, for all the world to see.

One has to wade through a host of names repeatedly strewn all over, but no matter, there is always that authoritative, quite confident passing, running impression of Philippine contemporary literature, perfect for students who are allergic to the pedantic, stiffly erudite, scholarly treatises on the subject.

It is always a challenge hardly met by all to compile one's columns ambitiously into a book. It is enough one has to foist his column as regular feed to readers who most of the time have to suffer the most banal and inane topics, let alone sloppy writing. Thank God we may choose the columns we want to read (and for that matter, the book reviews).

It is not really what are written about, what ideologies and social issues, personal philosophies and doctrines of the columnist-bookwriter flaunted and bandied about which in the long run matter, if they have to be part of our literary book shelf, be considered literature. Susan Sontag puts it so aptly: "Literature is self-consciousness, doubt, scruple, fastidiousness, song, spontaneity, celebration, bliss." All columns eventually aspire toward literature.

And finally, therefore, it is not really what the writer says, but what he is. And what he is is basically a matter of language, his conscience, the conscience of words. Yuson has the language; his language has it. It is this that makes us empathize, identify with totally alien experiences and situations. Let those whose names never have been mentioned or whose faces never sneaked into view, blurred or distorted, in the photo gallery, consign this book into the nearest trash-pile of Metro Manila. The countless names herein dropped plus the students and readers of Philippine literature, and of writer Yuson are enough to warrant a runaway readership for this book.

This, of course, is a personal view.

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Rock Drilon contains the pain by defying it

(Story on page F2)

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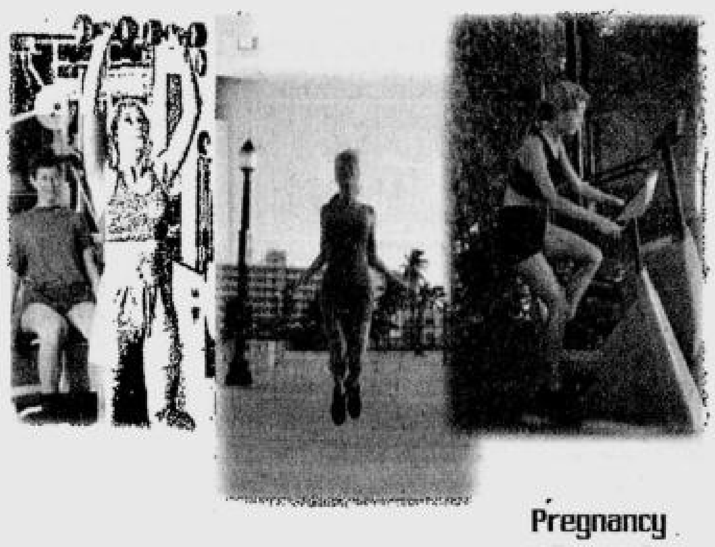

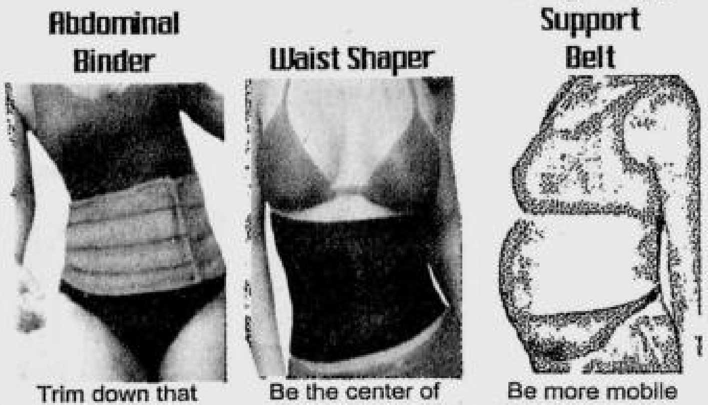

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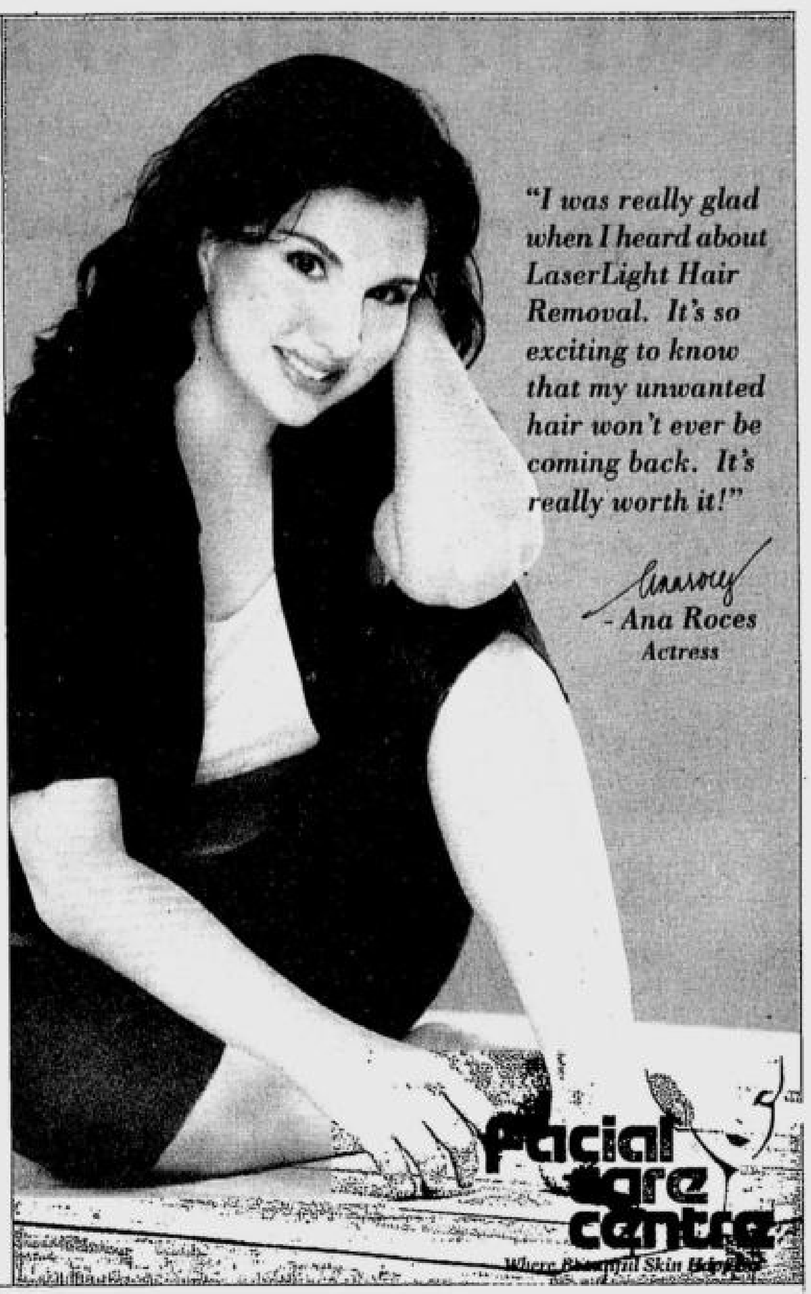

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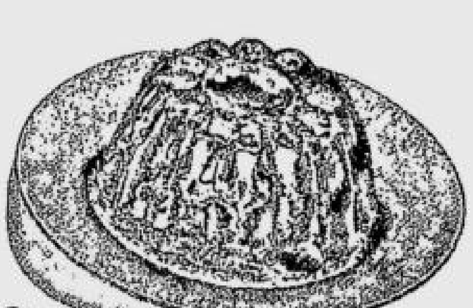

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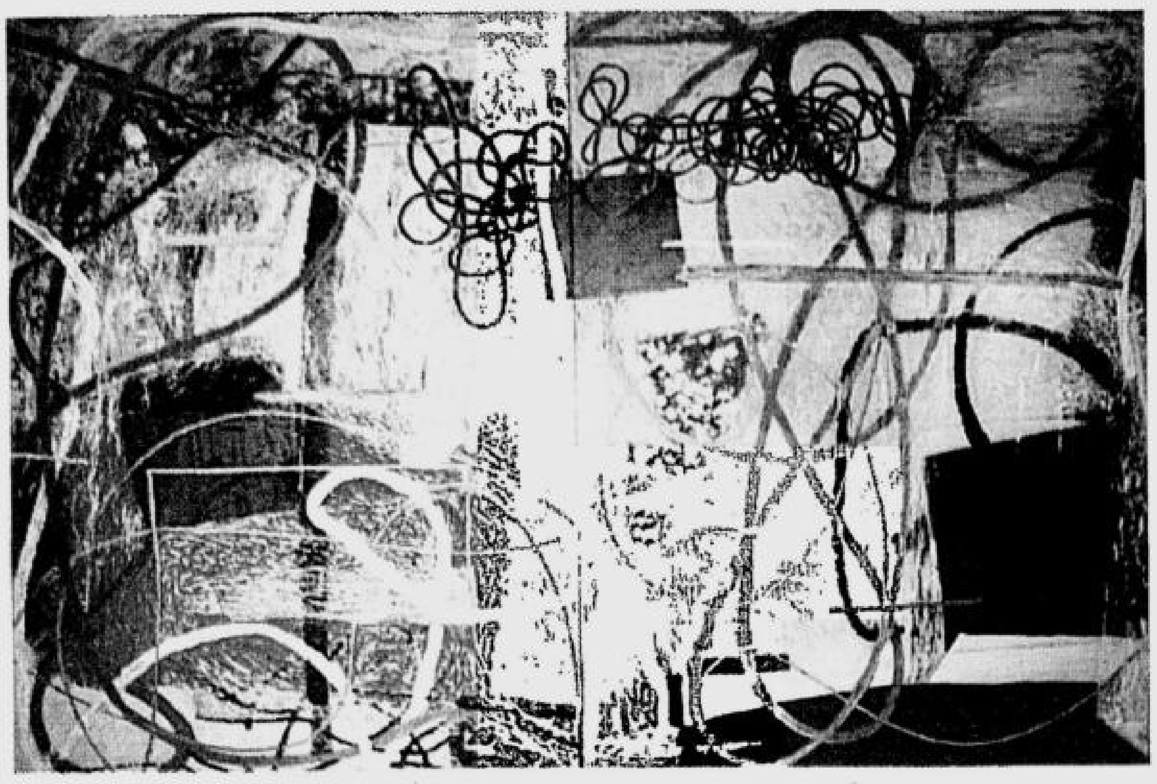
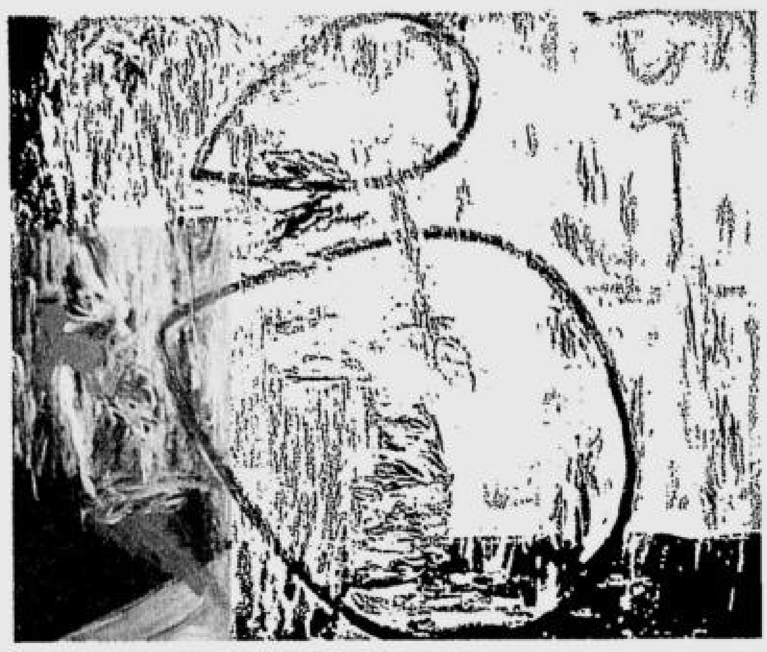
Rock Drilon contains the pain by defying it

By Benjamin Ramos
Contributor

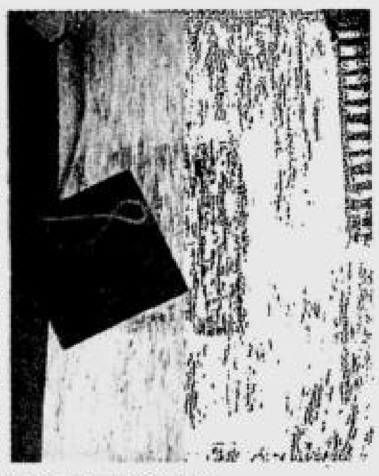

"RESONuANCE I"

AFTER A YEAR'S hibernation, fortysome-thing Rock Drilon has finally come out of his cocoon to woo audiences with his new set of abstract paintings. Titled "RESONuANCE" (until Feb. 7 at SM Megamall's Art Center organized by Galleria Duemila and curated by Bernardo Paquing and Juan Alcazaren), the suit of 29 acrylics and 24 drawings shows a more introspective and yet explosive temperament whose expression ranges from the dynamic to the meditative, from the sublime to the frenetic

The color range has expanded somewhat from his previous forte of whitish and pale gray grounds with slight pastel accents to predominantly pastel-hued in his smaller pieces, and predominantly middle-to-dark gray and white in his larger ones. The dominant artistic element in this series is the stringed loop that makes acrobatic circles across the entire canvas plane, rendered mostly in blues, tracing an accented mark that travels across the more neutral backdrops of white, gray and pastel brown. Other elements that make their reappearance include the planar textural shapes and short vertical or diagonal stabs of bright primary colors like yellow and red. In some of the smaller pieces, the red becomes a glaring element that throbs with life in swaths of squares, pentagons and rhomboids.

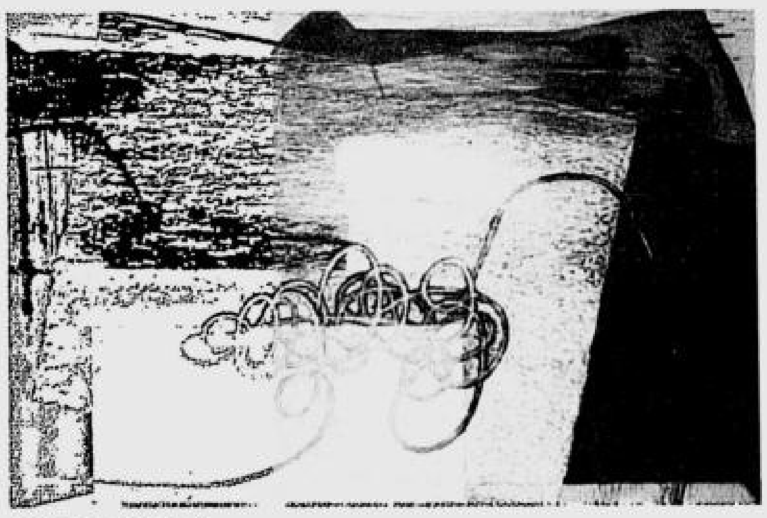

"RESONuANCE 8"

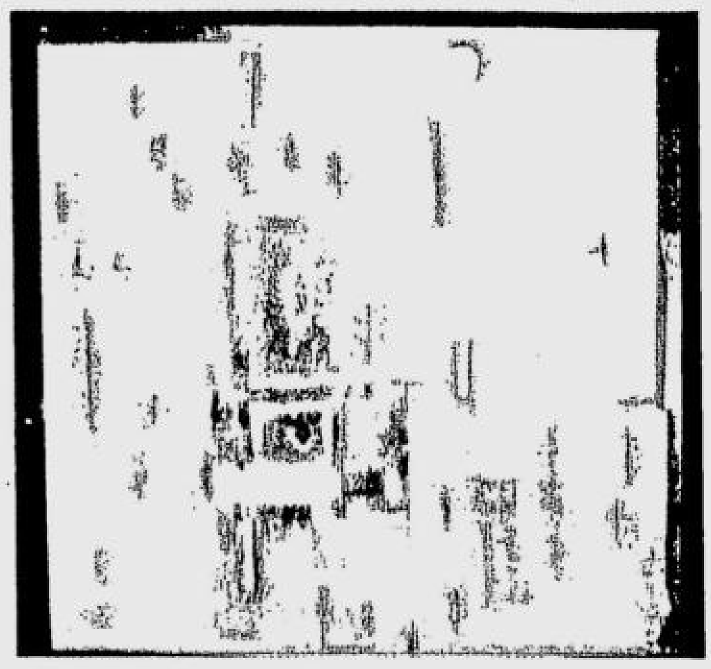
All this formal shoptalk might bore the average layman unused to abstraction, but to the art connoisseur, it indicates the moods and character of its maker, and the mental processes involved to bring a painting to life. The concept of Abstract Expressionism, coming out of New York in the late '40s, privileges the extremity of artistic freedom in this most radical of challenges to representation. In aspiring for the autonomy of the individual's emotional state using a nonrepresentational style, Ab Exp (as it is called by practitioners) freed 20th-century art from the prison of using nature as the only model of artistic value, and unlocked the gates to independent thinking and visualizing. Squares and daubs of paint became indices of feeling, emotion, philosophical rumination, or even just innuendo.


"RESONuANCE 16"

To those following Rock's career, the UP Fine Arts product is simply turning a new page in the never-ending chapter of Pinoy Ab Exp championed by his former mentors like the late Jose Joya. Only this time, the context of doing it under the historical and personal circumstances of Rock's life last year makes a different impression. Going through another revolution and bouts of gout, the collective joy of reaffirming social justice interlaced with the painful realization of one's mortality all feed the current series a subconscious vein of ironic happiness, as if struggling to contain the pain by defying it with the vigorous actions of color-fielding and gestural painting.

As a record of his struggles of 2001, the "RESONuANCE" series also outlines Rock's continuing development of his painting style. Gone are the salutations of a folk past, like the jeepney series he did till 1992, and in their stead is the forward vision of the cool shades of contemporary global culture, like the moss green and chrome yellows that dominate his smaller pieces. The use of the stringed loop, always with the vigorously bent flourish, indicates the boundless energy of a soul still searching, and still finding. This is interestingly expanded into a series of drawings that contrasts the paintings not only in their intimacy, but also in their mystery. Kudos to Rock for the courage in showing his finished inspirational "sketches."

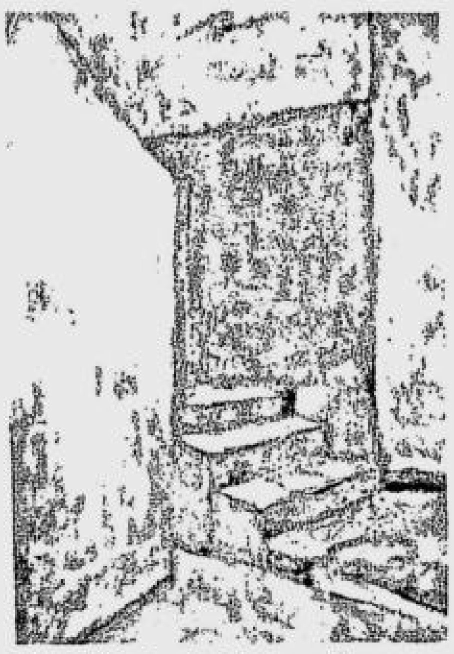

"RESONuANCE 10"


"WINDOWS I," mixed media, by Lexigius Calip, at the Avellana Art Gallery

Emma Navarro . . .

(FrompageF6)

its classic proportions, massive magnificence and its anti-seismic engineering qualities, will be played in the opening. The exhibit-musical presentation opens the series of events celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Main Building of the Pontifical University, Asia's oldest and the largest Catholic university in the world.


"STEPS" by Pardo de Leon, at Figaro-Emerald Avenue, Pasig City

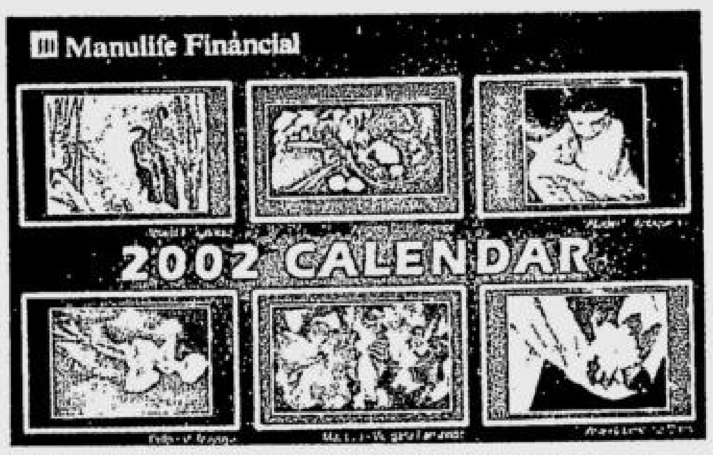
MIRANDA AT FINALE. In her latest series of large-scale, almost hyperrealist oil paintings, "Breathe," Katrina Miranda takes the viewer to her fascinating waterworld, at the Finale Art Gallery (SM Megamall) Jan. 29 to Feb. 10.

AUSTRALIAN ARTIST IN CEBU. Australian artist Jacki Fleet's paintings are displayed in "Pulse 2" at the Luna ArtSpace (Gorordo Avenue, Cebu City). The exhibit consists of six paintings, in mixed media, 13 prints done with photopolymer process, a small maquette of the "1,000 Souls" installation from a previous exhibit, and an outdoor installation work done on site.

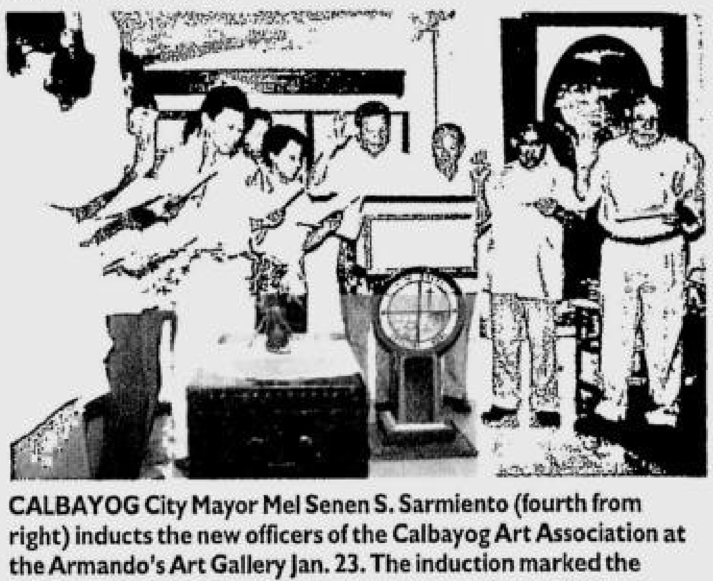
GROUP EXHIBIT AT BOSTON. "Under Bleeding Rain and Sky Crystal Clear," an exhibit of paintings in oil and canvas featuring four of the country's most promising young artists—Carlo Gabuco, Ivan Roxas, JC Tañedo and Christopher Zamora—opens on Feb. 9, 6 p.m., at Boston Gallery. The exhibit will run until March 5. Call 722-9205.

CUYSON AT DUEMILA. Jon Cuyson mounts his seventh solo exhibit, presenting four large acrylic paintings on canvas having cool monochromatic colors with abstracted geometric forms and eight small works of collage on paper with a similar theme. The artist also creates four large abstract works. He combines references to hard-edged abstraction and representational invocation. He complements optimistic color with good design. The exhibit opens Feb. 1 at Galleria Duemila (SM Megamall) and runs until Feb. 15. Call 831-9990, 833-9815 or 633-6687.

MAGSINO AT GALLERY 139. Gallery 139 (3/L Glorietta IV, Ayala Center, Makati) takes art aficionados to a sensory and uplifting journey through the works of US-based artist Toots Magsino in a solo exhibit until Jan. 30. Dubbed "An Artist's Diary," the exhibit showcases Magsino's trademark simple colors and passionate insights.



MANULIFE brings together the works of six accomplished artists—Araceli Limcaco-Dans, Alan Septimo Antiqueno, Felipe Vergara Mayoya, Joven Ignacio, Angelito Baldemor and Maria Luisa Fernando—in its 2002 Corporate Calendar. Manulife Philippines is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Financial, which manages funds all over the world worth C$134.6 billion as of Sept. 30, 2001. Log on to www.manulife.com.


CALBAYOG City Mayor Mel Senen S. Sarmiento (fourth from right) inducts the new officers of the Calbayog Art Association at the Armando's Art Gallery Jan. 23. The induction marked the opening of "Tugahan nga Ladawan san Isla san Samar." Shown are (from right) Raul G. Isidro, Manding Toleza, Rev. Fr. Rod San Jose, OFM, Mercy Garcia, Valenti Villanueva, Danny Celum, Noel Sagayap, Willie Labana, Gerry Navilon, Jun Sabili, Aris Ventures, Rustom Villamor and Jun Salurio.

The shapes of graphite

By Constantino C. Tejero

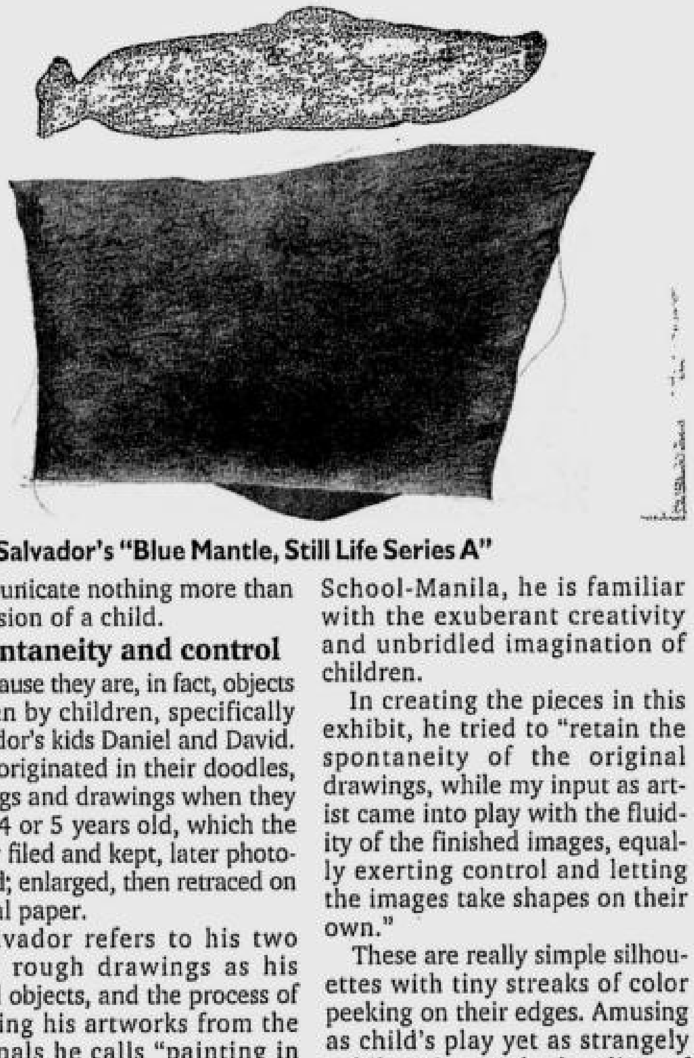
ARTISTS have always been at odds with normality: social conventions, rules and regulations, institutionalized religion, married life and domesticity. Not a few have been known to complain, for instance, that family life interferes with their art-making.

Some, however, find their inspiration and material in this very domesticity. In the years of his married life, painter Juni Salvador has been grappling with the problem of "art-making, creative purity and independence versus the stifling reality of domesticity, practicality and compromise."

This, he says, is the question and challenge that he's trying to address in his works. Thus, they often revolve around the immediate objects he sees in the house.

"My current works make use of domestic and fatherly icons," he explains. "Objects and contexts that exist in my domestic landscape, my children's toys, objects in basic primary colors, diapers, baby bottles, household bric-à-brac."

They reappear in his fifth solo exhibit, "Still Life and Other Matters," ongoing until Jan. 29 in West Gallery at Glorietta 4.


JUNI Salvador's "Blue Mantle, Still Life Series A"

Despite the exhibit's title, though, the 10 pieces in pencil and acrylic on paper are not your common-garden-variety still life. In fact, they look more abstract than figurative, vague forms outlined in pencil then filled thickly with black graphite. They seem to express or communicate nothing more than the vision of a child.

Spontaneity and control

Because they are, in fact, objects as seen by children, specifically Salvador's kids Daniel and David. They originated in their doodles, tracings and drawings when they were 4 or 5 years old, which the father filed and kept, later photocopied; enlarged, then retraced on special paper.

Salvador refers to his two boys' rough drawings as his found objects, and the process of creating his artworks from the originals he calls "painting in pencil."

Salvador took up his art education at both the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Philippine Women's University. Having been an art teacher for over a decade, first at Maria Montessori Children's School and now at the International School-Manila, he is familiar with the exuberant creativity and unbridled imagination of children.

In creating the pieces in this exhibit, he tried to "retain the spontaneity of the original drawings, while my input as artist came into play with the fluidity of the finished images, equally exerting control and letting the images take shapes on their own."

These are really simple silhouettes with tiny streaks of color peeking on their edges. Amusing as child's play yet as strangely exhilarating as the loveliest of minimalist art, they have titles that do not necessarily correspond with what the viewer seems to behold.

Mystery and imagination

"Pink Shaft," for instance, looks like a haycock with a banner stiffly unfurled, with pink and blue edging in parts. "Pink Twist" could be a vest or a camisole with pink and gray edging, while "Pink Peak" may be a sorcerer's hat with pink and white edging.

"Brown Tips" shows three peaks on a rectangle with hints of red, orange and ochre on the edges. "Greyish Cones" looks like a cat with upturned ears, or a blouse with square neckline, with hints of blue, gray and burnt sienna. "Red Splits" may be a stylized sofa, or another blouse with V-cut neckline, with hints of red, ochre and old rose.

And "Blue Mantle" is the title of a series of four pieces illustrating what look like anything but a mantle: an un-inflated balloon or a condom hovering above an uneven rectangle, with hints of orange, cerulean with aquamarine dots; a triangular peak atop a rectangular slab, and a broken pitcher, with hints of white, indigo, cerulean and aquamarine; a giant fish with mauve fins afloat above a tiny table with blue and yellow edging; four bowls or cups, like inverted breasts, with hints of blue, red and green.

These are black forms with only the barest hints of colors on the edges, which the artist says are the actual colors of the objects before the imagination of the child transformed them into shadows. Whatever they are, it is precisely the mystery of their origins that makes for their richness as art.

In minimalism, only the essentials remain. In Zen, it's a kind of transcendence.

Spain is everywhere these days

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

THE MORAL of the story is: take coup rumors with a grain of salt. People may say where there's smoke... but who is dumb enough to plan a coup and proceed to tell the whole world about it? Answer: whoever wants to suggest that the possibility is always there, right?

Coup or no coup, life goes on. All you devotees of the Castilian language will be happy to know that the Academia de la Lengua Española now has a home in the new annex of the Casino Español on T.M. Kalaw. Inaugurated recently with Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja** and Academia president **Jose Rodriguez** doing the honors, the Academia was off to a good start with **Mamita Pardo de Tavera**, Ambassador to Malta **Enrique Syquia** and his charming **Letty**, **Quining Porta**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** and the lovely **Mariana,** and the good friars, Dominican **Lucio Gutierrez** and Augustinian **Pedro Galende**, as well as **Evie Costa**, **Virginia Moreno** and a host of other lovers of the language in attendance.

Chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chair, **Anding Roces**, a fount of bottomless information on Filipino culture, maintains that the name E1 Pasig is derived from Legaspi and that Texas' former name was Nueva Filipinas! So top that.

* * *

In the mean time, Spain has assumed the presidency of the European Union—as if you didn't know. Apparently the presidency rotates every six months among the member states and it's Spain's turn to take over the helm.

In honor of the occasion, Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja held a reception at his residence (in case you're curious, **Ana Ortigas** did the redecorating. Very Nice). No doubt there were all kinds of topics discussed such as terrorism, inflation, poverty and all those weighty subjects ambassadors discuss.

* * *

Just so you know not everything was that serious. Dr. **Luciana Ong** and his indefatigable charming half, **Helen** (she has a slew of businesses under her well-coifed hair), celebrated the good doctor's birthday *en grande* with friends from the diplomatic corps and well-wishers from Manila's 400, not to mention Helen's dancing group. The elegant Ong residence, ablaze with lights and flowers, welcomed the always gracious **Meldy Cojuangco**, Letty Syquia, Netherlands Ambassador **Theo Arnold** and the chic **Kessara, Maritess Pineda**, Mexican Ambassador and Mme. Enrique Hubbard, Peruvian Ambassador **Julio Cardenas**, Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez**, who had just moved the embassy office to Multinational Building in Salcedo Village (this time interiored by **Maria Luisa Lovina**—also very nice), and on and on.

EUROPEAN-UNION members, from left, Germany? Ambassador Tomas Pantoja, Ambassador Theo Arnold, Ambassador Giles Choraqui, Ambassadpr Peter Rosting, Luc Vandebon, Ambassador Allan Collins

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Kessara-Arnold, Mely Ablaza, Ulrike Caetano da Silva, Nene Leonor, Helen Ong and Maritess Pineda

AMBASSADOR Gilles Chouraqui, Valeria Cue, Evie Costa, Francisco Cue, Monique Zani, Mariana Habbard

FE Rodriguez, Imelda Cojuangco, Letty Syquia and Dr. Yu-mian

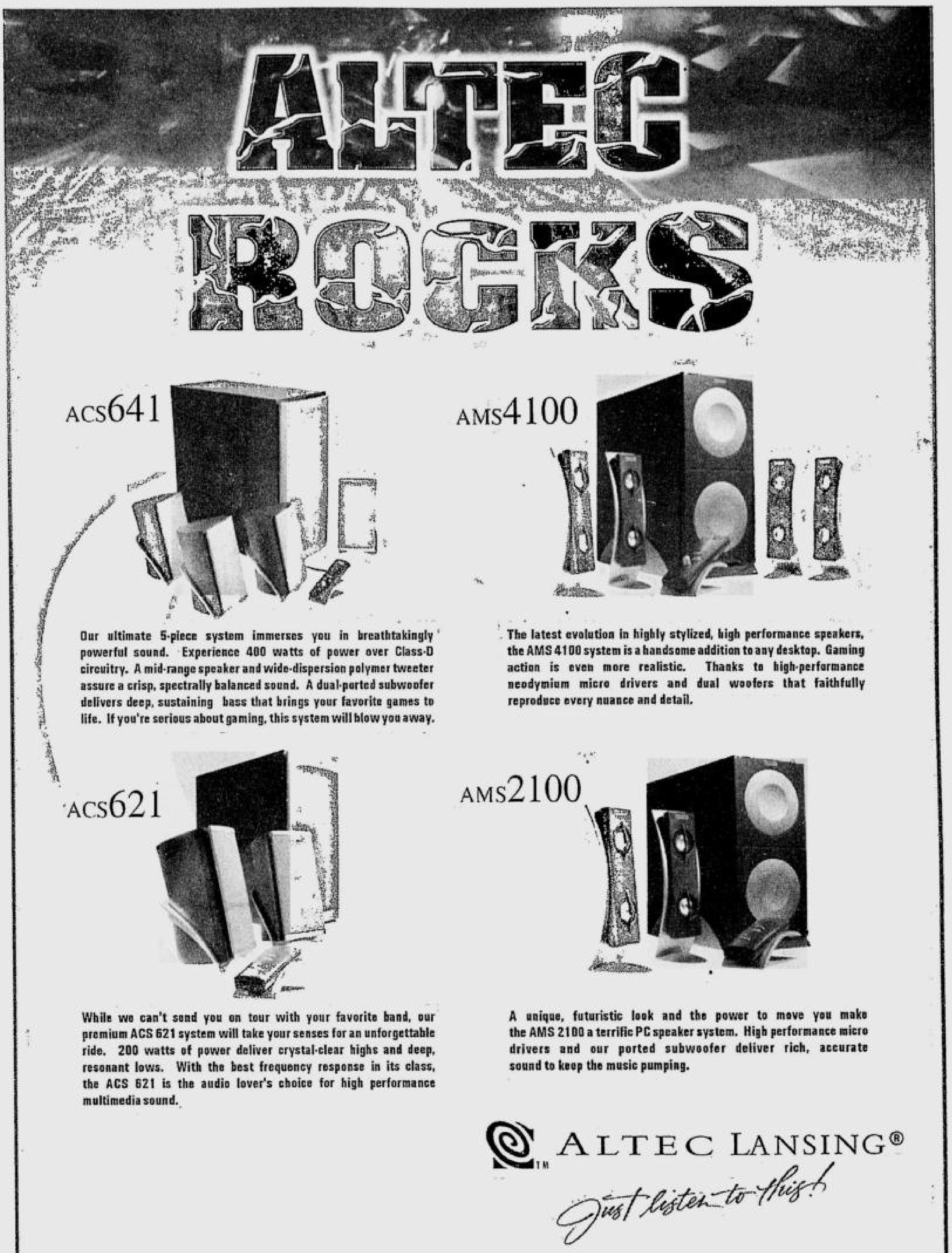
MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique Habbard, Ambassador Milena Santana-Ramirez, Ambassador Julio Cardenas and Mariana Habbard

CUBAN Ambassador Ramon Alonso Medina, Jose Rodriguez and Enrique Syquia

AMANDO Doronila and Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

ANDING Roces and Hector Villanueva



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A unique, futuristic look and the power to move you make the AMS 2100 a terrific PC speaker system. High performance micro drivers and our ported subwoofer deliver rich, accurate sound to keep the music pumping.

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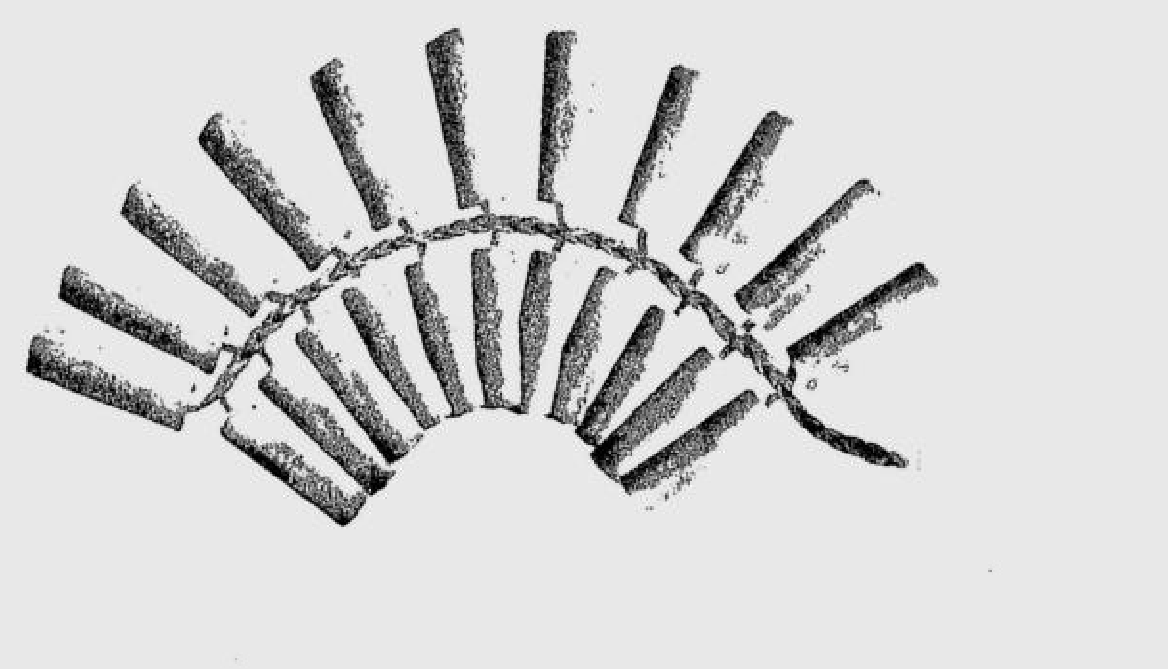
Mandarin Oriental celebrates the Chinese New Year.

Join the festivities and participate in a grand Chinese New Year welcome at Mandarin Oriental, Manila: a lucky site this coming Year of the Horse. Be a part of the glorious merrymaking in Makati, as Hong Kong-based **Feng Shui master Joseph Chau** leads the celebration on February 11, starting 11pm. Featuring an array of activities to usher in good luck for the coming year:

• The Prosperity Walk along Paseo de Roxas and Makati Ave. • A Pai San ceremony led by Master Chau • Lion dances and eye dotting ceremonies • Firecrackers • The first lucky meal of the year served at the ballroom, where diners shall receive free copies of the Feng Shui 2002 annual forecast book by Master Chau.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
MANILA

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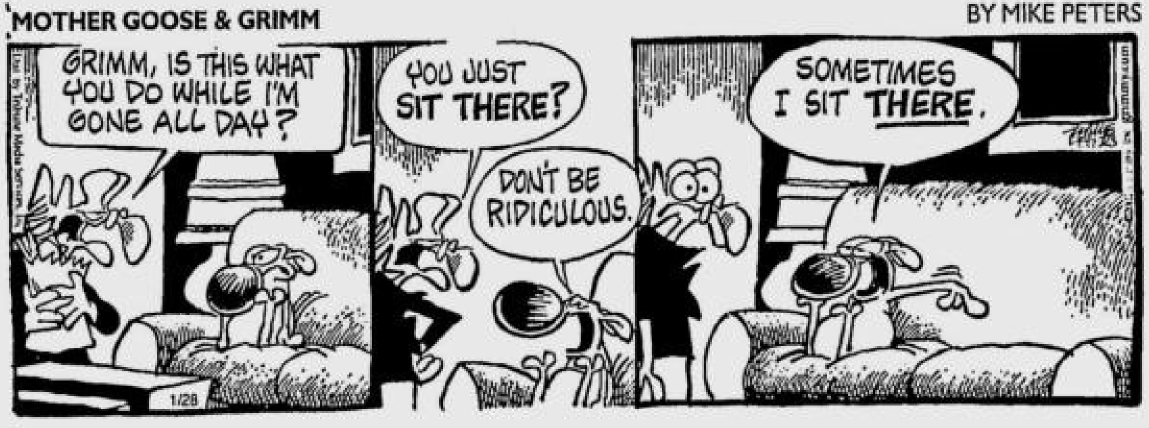
Facsimile 817 2472
E-mail: reservemomnl@mohg.com
www.mandarinoriental.com/manila/

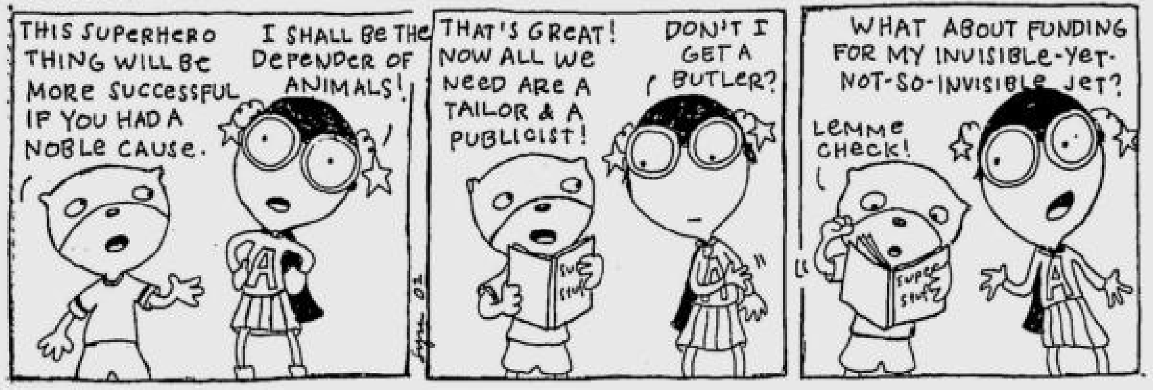
Special thanks to:

MOTOROLA

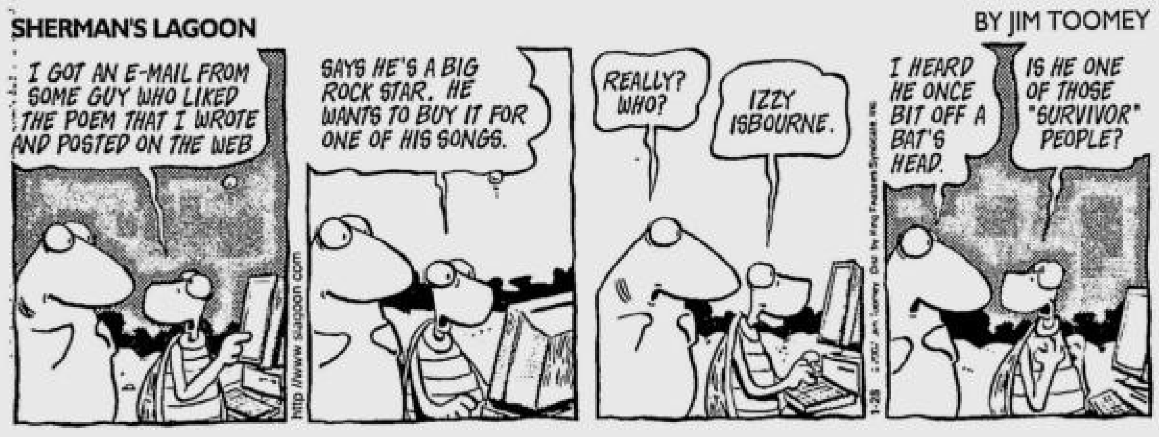
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, IS THIS WHAT YOU DO WHILE I'M GONE ALL DAY?
YOU JUST SIT THERE?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
SOMETIMES I SIT THERE.
1/28

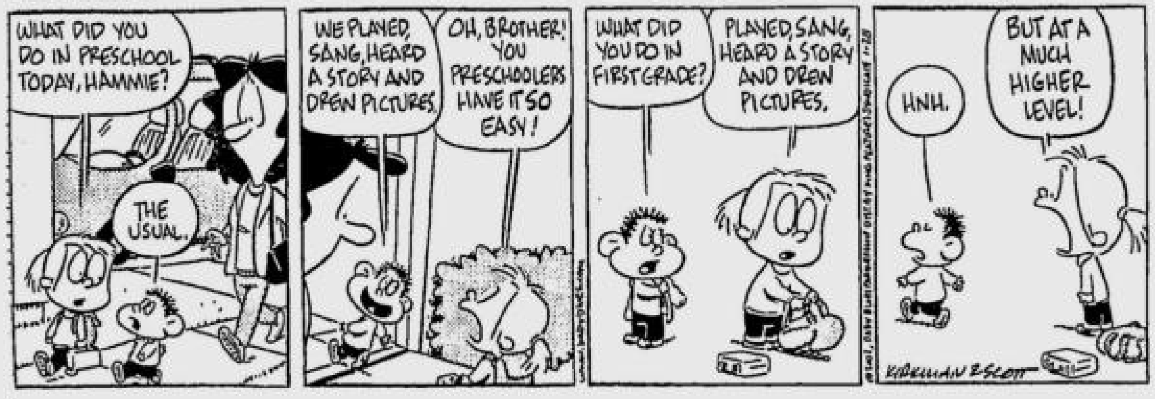
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS SUPERHERO THING WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IF YOU HAD A NOBLE CAUSE.
I SHALL BE THE DEFENDER OF ANIMALS!
THAT'S GREAT! NOW ALL WE NEED ARE A TAILOR & A PUBLICIST!
DON'T I GET A BUTLER?
WHAT ABOUT FUNDING FOR MY INVISIBLE-YET-NOT-SO-INVISIBLE JET?
LEMME CHECK!
SUPER STUFF

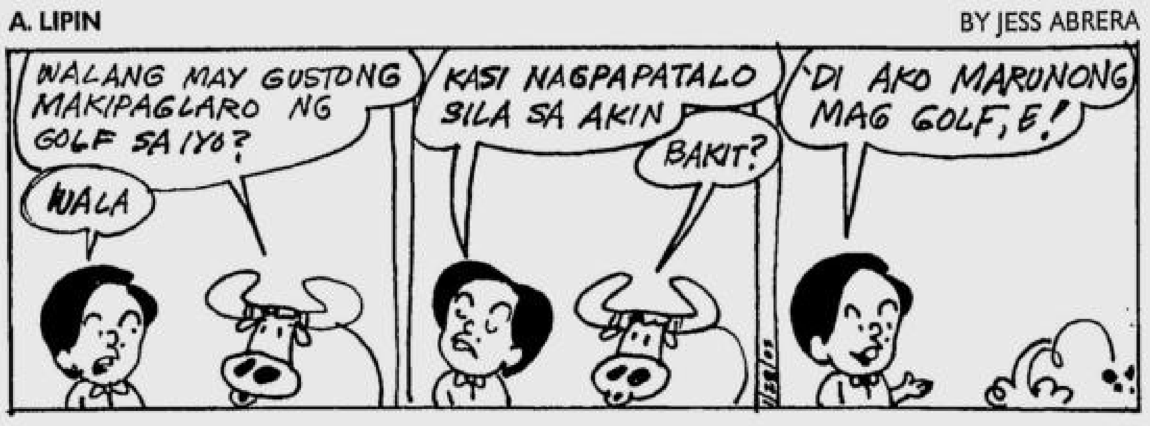
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM SOME GUY WHO LIKED THE POEM THAT I WROTE AND POSTED ON THE WEB
SAYS HE'S A BIG ROCK STAR. HE WANTS TO BUY IT FOR ONE OF HIS SONGS.
REALLY? WHO?
IZZY ISBOURNE.
I HEARD HE ONCE BIT OFF A BAT'S HEAD.
IS HE ONE OF THOSE "SURVIVOR" PEOPLE?
http://www.slagoon.com
1-28

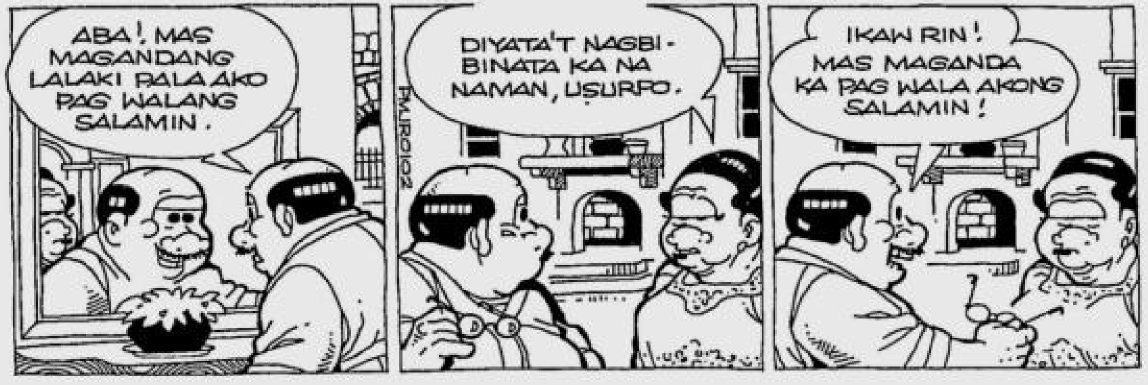
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DID YOU DO IN PRESCHOOL TODAY, HAMMIE?
THE USUAL.
WE PLAYED, SANG, HEARD A STORY AND DREW PICTURES.
OH, BROTHER! YOU PRESCHOOLERS HAVE IT SO EASY!
WHAT DID YOU DO IN FIRST GRADE?
PLAYED, SANG, HEARD A STORY AND DREW PICTURES.
HNH.
BUT AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

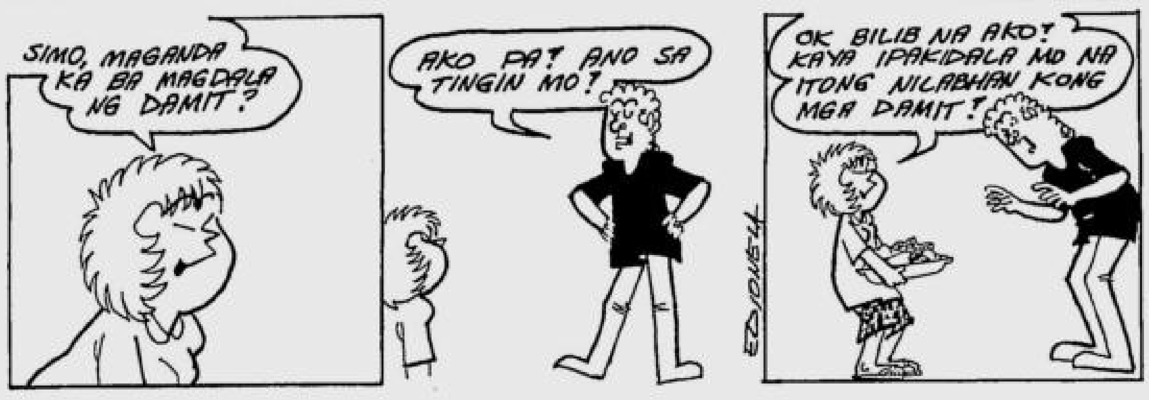
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WALANG MAY GUSTONG MAKIPAGLARO NG GOLF SA IYO?
WALA
KASI NAGPAPATALO SILA SA AKIN
BAKIT?
'DI AKO MARUNONG MAG GOLF, E!

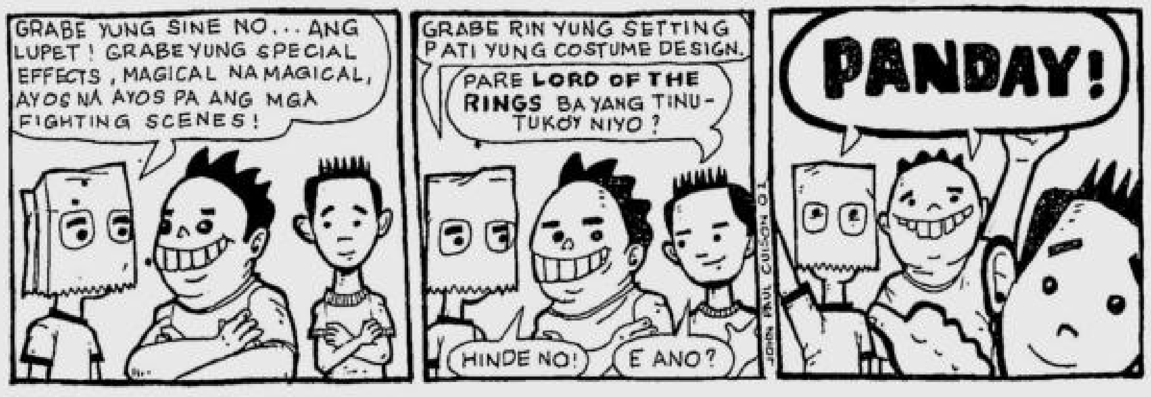
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ABA! MAS MAGANDANG LALAKI PALA AKO PAG WALANG SALAMIN.
DIYATA'T NAGBIBINATA KA NA NAMAN, USURFO.
IKAW RIN! MAS MAGANDA KA PAG WALA AKONG SALAMIN!

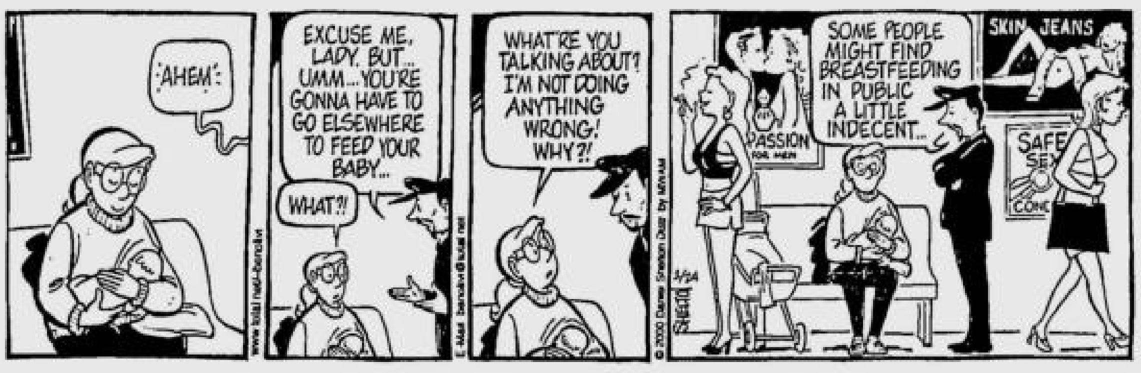
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, MAGANDA KA BA MAGDALA NG DAMIT?
AKO PA? ANO SA TINGIN MO?
OK BILIB NA AKO! KAYA IPAKIDALA MO NA ITONG NILABHAN KONG MGA DAMIT!
EDIONELA

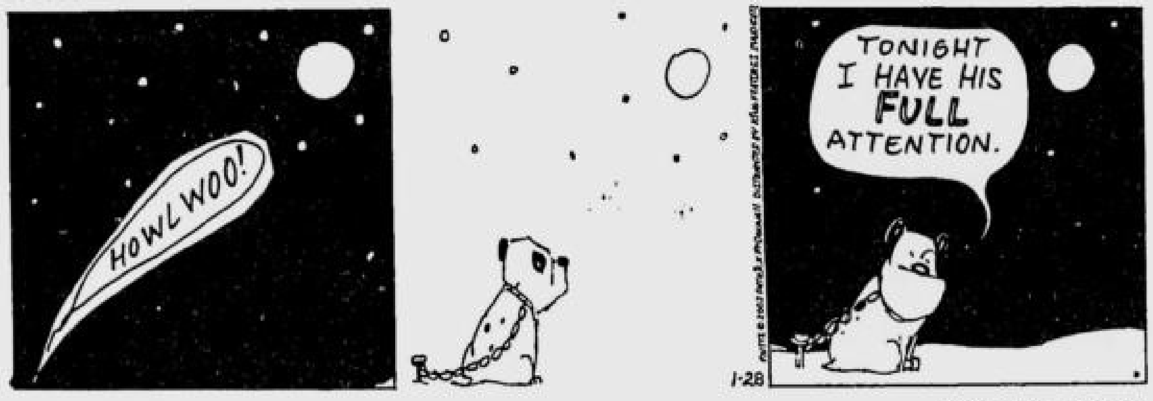
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


GRABE YUNG SINE NO... ANG LUPET! GRABE YUNG SPECIAL EFFECTS, MAGICAL NA MAGICAL, AYOS NA AYOS PA ANG MGA FIGHTING SCENES!
GRABE RIN YUNG SETTING PATI YUNG COSTUME DESIGN.
PARE LORD OF THE RINGS BA YANG TINUTUKOY NIYO?
HINDE NO!
E ANO?
PANDAY!
JOHN PAUL CUISON 01

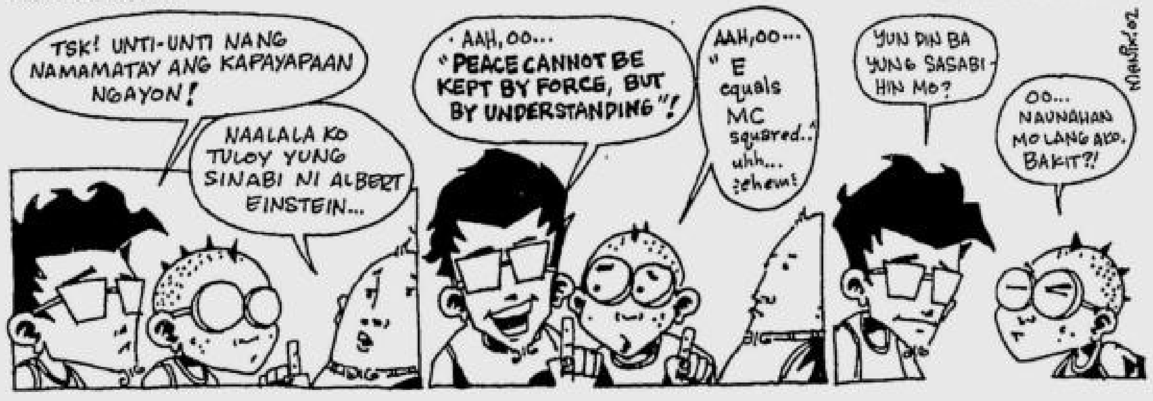
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


AHEM
EXCUSE ME, LADY. BUT... UMM... YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO ELSEWHERE TO FEED YOUR BABY...
WHAT?!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG! WHY?!
SOME PEOPLE MIGHT FIND BREASTFEEDING IN PUBLIC A LITTLE INDECENT...
SKIN JEANS
PASSION FOR MEN
SAFE SEX

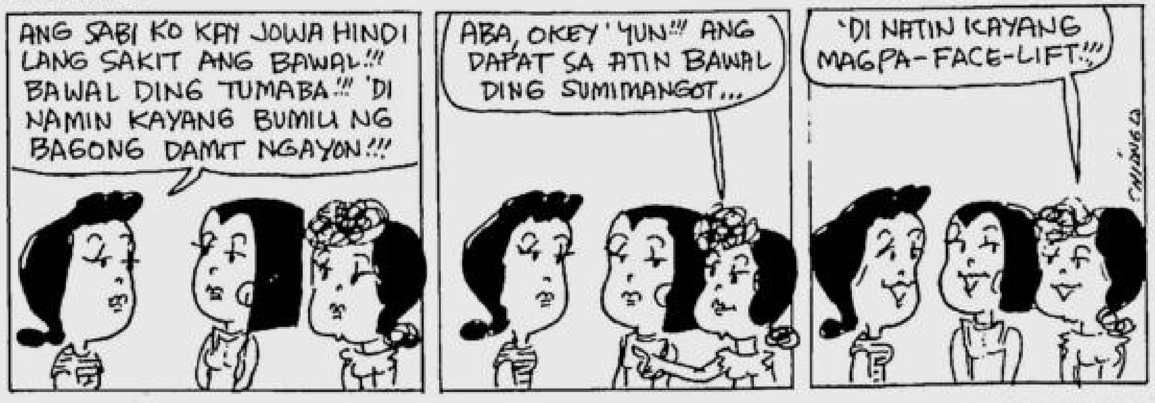
MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL


HOWLWOO!
TONIGHT I HAVE HIS FULL ATTENTION.
1-28

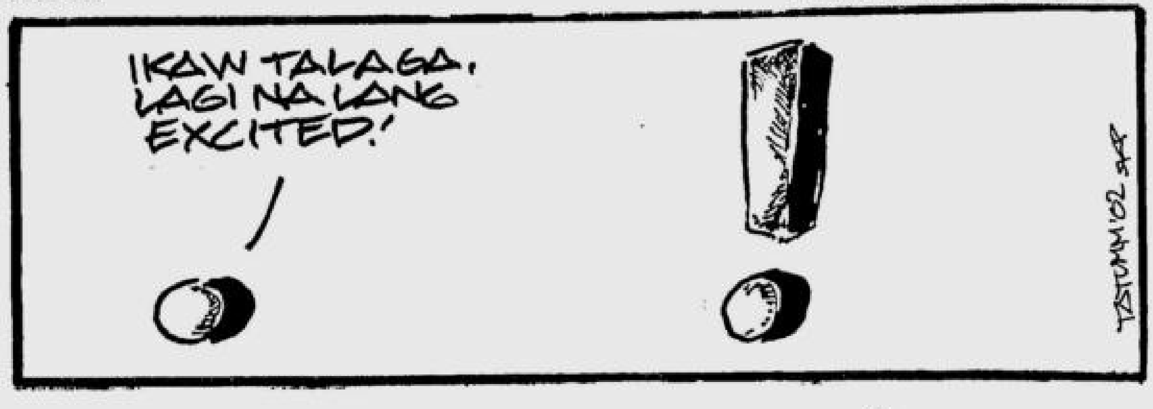
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! UNTI-UNTI NANG NAMAMATAY ANG KAPAYAPAAN NGAYON!
NAALALA KO TULOY YUNG SINABI NI ALBERT EINSTEIN...
AAH, OO... "PEACE CANNOT BE KEPT BY FORCE, BUT BY UNDERSTANDING"!
AAH, OO... "E equals MC squared.." uhh... ehem!
YUN DIN BA YUNG SASABIHIN MO?
OO... NAUNAHAN MO LANG AKO. BAKIT?!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SABI KO KAY JOWA HINDI LANG SAKIT ANG BAWAL!!! BAWAL DING TUMABA!!! 'DI NAMIN KAYANG BUMILI NG BAGONG DAMIT NGAYON!!!
ABA, OKEY 'YUN!!! ANG DAPAT SA ATIN BAWAL DING SUMIMANGOT...
'DI NATIN KAYANG MAGPA-FACE-LIFT!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


IKAW TALAGA. LAGI NA LANG EXCITED!
TATUM '02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Athina Onassis, Nick Carter, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Sarah McLachlan

Happy Birthday: If you are feeling restless don't hesitate to make a change. Take the initiative; after all, your own happiness depends on the choices you make. Your numbers are 5, 13, 17, 28, 31, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You won't have any trouble getting others to listen to your well thought out plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let the petty little comments made by others upset you. Relax and think about yourself for a change. You aren't in any position to make changes today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your talkative nature will ensure that you establish good friendships and partnerships today. If you tell it like it is you will get the kind of reception you're looking for.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Money matters will be your prime concern today. End of the month bills will probably end up costing you more than you anticipated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refrain from taking things too personally. If you overreact you may not like the reaction you get in return. Overindulgence will lead to regrets.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take it easy today. You need to rejuvenate. Put yourself first for a change and you will be able to get yourself back on course.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The more you help others, the better you will feel about yourself. The more you interact with others, the better your chance will be to meet someone who can influence your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Organize your responsibilities so that you don't disappoint anyone including yourself. You should look into making some changes to your home that will help lighten your workload.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be eager to learn everything you can in order to better understand your future direction. You will not want to waste time today, so make solid plans and follow through with them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You owe it to yourself and to your family to take care of unfinished business. You have a good sense when it comes to legalities and financial matters .

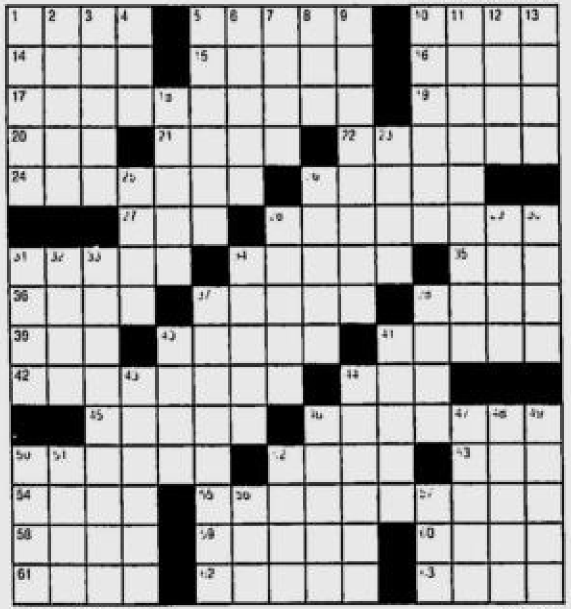
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't push the ones you love today. It is best to keep a low profile and do your own thing. Be open to what others want to pursue and keep a positive frame of mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put some time aside to take care of personal matters. It's time you looked into some new hobbies that will get you thinking and help you develop your creative talents.

Birthday Baby: You will always look inward. You are reserved in your approach to life. You are calm and disciplined and mature in your interactions with others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Hinish
Williamsburg, VA

12/12/01

ACROSS
1 Robin Goodfellow
5 Cut
10 Ugandan despot
14 Shawm's descendant
15 Free-for-all
16 Perform again
17 Chronicler of Paul Revere's ride
19 Misfortunes
20 Fond du __, WI
21 Charles Lamb
22 General Clark
24 The Moor of Venice
26 __ Novo, Benin
27 Singer Orbison
28 Restricted
31 Cinematic swashbuckler
34 Carillon components
35 Social finisher?
36 Wine sediment
37 Incited
38 Ignore contemptuously
39 Lubricant
40 Growls
41 On the up-and-up
42 Neighbor of Stanford, CA
44 That woman
45 Hodgepodges
46 Newness
50 South African township
52 Residence
53 Nest-egg inits.
54 __-Romeo
55 "Humboldt's Gift" author
58 Golda of Israel
59 Samantha of "The Collector"
60 Harrow's rival
61 Electronics company
62 Rhone tributary
63 Cooking meas.

DOWN
1 Spanish chicken
2 Sub
3 Spiral seashell
4 Little barrel
5 Rank
6 Sun: pref.
7 __ podrida
8 Auto pioneer's initials
9 The Americas
10 Noble Brit
11 Becoming milder with age
12 Inactive
13 Too inquisitive
18 Big-time crook
23 Goes astray
25 Sea eagles
26 Loses color
28 Amazon feeder
29 Needle case
30 Liability
31 Unsuccessful play
32 "Star Wars" princess
33 Tuna choice
34 Spoiled kids
37 Removes bonds
38 Ecological cycle
40 Trot or gallop
41 Dike
43 Chicago cow owner
44 Paul Newman movie
46 Ryan with the most no-hitters
47 Cheerful tunes
48 Throng along
49 Signs of boredom
50 Waterston and Wanamaker
51 Imitation butter
52 Actor Weaving
56 Turkish honcho
57 Permit to

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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O	V	O	I	D	■	A	R	I	A	■	C	O	N	E
B	A	N	D	I	N	S	T	R	U	M	E	N	T	S
R	I	N	■	P	O	T	S	■	■	E	L	I	O	T
A	L	I	■	O	A	R	■	E	U	R	O	■	■	■
■	■	P	U	S	H	Y	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E
B	A	T	H	E	■	■	S	U	E	T	■	N	O	W
A	S	I	S	■	K	E	P	I	S	■	I	D	L	E
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■	■	■	H	U	G	S	■	R	E	A	■	W	B	A
A	D	O	R	N	■	■	L	I	R	R	■	R	A	N
M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	B	I	G	W	I	G	S
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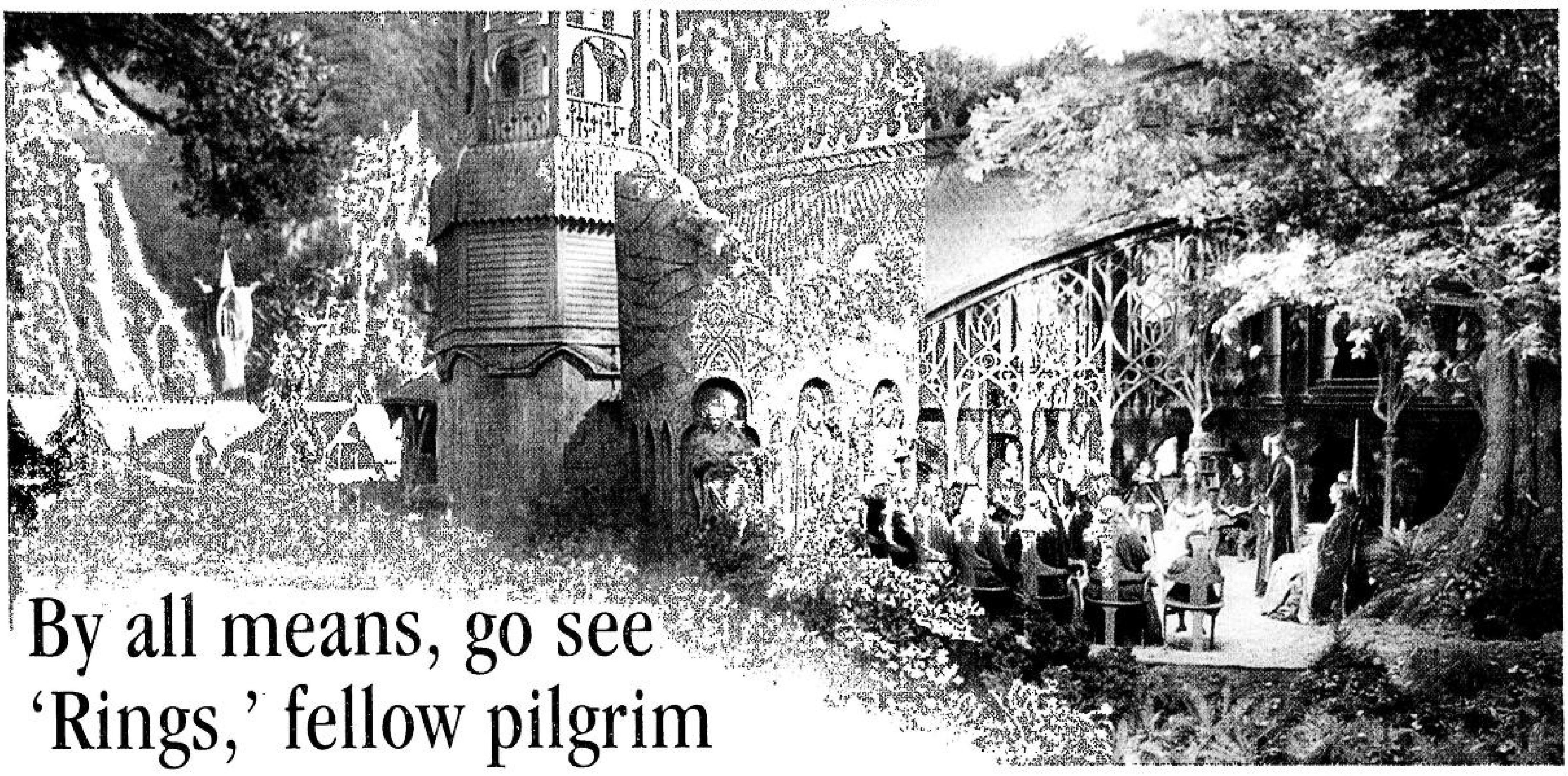


By all means, go see 'Rings,' fellow pilgrim

By S.B. Zulueta
Contributor

FOR US devout book readers, perpetual searchers of unknown Holy Grails, one fond memory we often associate with our youth is reading J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye." For some of us who are luckier, it is the discovery, among other tempting delights, of a copy of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings."

And like a weary pilgrim of yore who has stumbled upon an old abandoned library where, among ancient, dusty, manuscripts, you dig up a certain book that maps the road home, to a far verdant Shire existing in all our minds. You turn to the first page and start reading. You cannot stop. Daily cares seem to vanish. Time stands still. You and the book are one.

Finished with the first, you grab the second book, then still hungry you leap into the third, helpless to escape the enchantment. Finally, with reluctance, you close the last book to realize it has changed you forever.

As though in a daze you walk the busy corridors of the campus no longer caring to look at pretty faces but for that one face, etched with the same journey through the book's landscape, a fellow pilgrim. None of your friends seemed to have heard of the book. They were more concerned with the immediate concerns of youth: sex, hell raising, diploma, success. Then one day just as you've given up, you enter the UP Arts and Sciences men's room. You are pissing when suddenly there, just above the aged browning piss stains, is a trail left by a passing pilgrim. Written with a ball pen in small block letters, it reads, "Boromir is not dead." You are not alone.

A successful film adaptation of a novel depends on whether it can come close to the images the book that have burned into the readers' minds. The length of the movie determines whether the screenwriter will be able to insert many of the book's details or will be forced to delete and compromise. No need to worry. "The Lord of the Rings" has been planned as a trilogy and has an ample three hours to accommodate the first book. It helps when you're using no high-profile director and no big stars to bear the burden of a marketing hype.

It is already a big help that Tolkien has left us his own illustrations of Middle Earth, which likewise have been interpreted by many illustrators since the book's first publication around 50 years ago. And the movie has been made at a time when filmmaking technology has reached a point that huge, complicated productions can be accomplished with less difficulty. But if this movie has any flaw it is just that, the use of digital effects isn't tempered with restraint.

Well and fine when a new location is established by the use of a flying camera, but applied too often it gets tiresome. Whenever the camera starts acting on its own unnecessarily, you can hear the scene shouting, "Hey, look, this is a computerized camera!," or "This is a 3D landscape!" More importantly, when you see too many flying shots as seen by an omniscient eye it diminishes the presence of the main characters whose POV (point of view) it is we should be following.

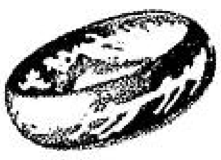
Majority of the scenes was shot with motion-control camera because the tall actors must be shot separately to be reduced to hobbit size later during postproduction. This may explain why the camera is constantly moving. It is sometimes done to hide imperfections in the compositing of elements. Staying too long on a shot may mean spotting, as often happens when acting with 3D elements, the actor's eyes wander where the 3D isn't supposed to be.

Ever since "Jurassic Park," almost all 3D monsters and creatures have begun to move with a speed unbelievable for their huge size—such is the case in this movie. It isn't so much the 3D animation as the camera whirling with the action plus the fast editing. The momentum of the fast cuts and moving camera scenes carries on to the simple dialogue scenes. You have hardly settled to a shot of an actor delivering a line but before you can digest the image and the line spoken, there's a quick cut to the listener then quickly back to the speaker. Because of the movie's length the makers probably figured the audience might get bored. Of course, the moving-camera approach carries a certain "NYPD Blue" urgency about it, but it's shallow. Urgency to be felt must develop from the progression of events in the narrative, which this movie already has plenty of. In any case, all good stories are about highs and lows. Why be afraid of the lows?

The hyping of scenes can be traced to the disregard for proportion. 3D character animation and digital FX are all developed and created within the size of a TV monitor, including the integration of all the components in the final editing stage. When TV-size FX and 3D animation are projected to the size of the huge cinema screen the difference can be jarring if not annoying.

Nevertheless, taking aside these petty, rather technical complaints, no one can deny the well-crafted screenplay, the brilliant production design, the indelible images of maidens of ethereal beauty, all the fine actors, and the sure tug and sinew of Tolkien's vision. By all means, go see it, fellow pilgrim. Perhaps even in this all-too-real world and disillusionment, it may not be too late to rediscover the forgotten path, the path we once attempted to tread in that far off time when we still believed in the strength of wisdom, the magic of dreams and the goodness that lies dormant within us.

> Technology is the boon—and a little bit of the bane—of the Tolkien adaptation



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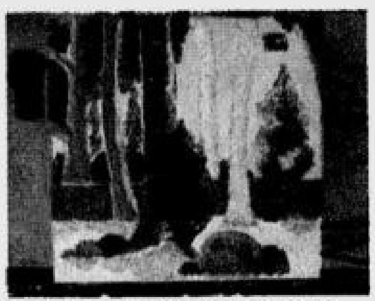
Bayer

Emma Navarro at Big & Small, De Leon at Figaro, Calip at Avellana, Mclaren films at Greenbelt, exhibit on architectural marvel at UST Museum

VISUAL ARTS

EMMA Navarro holds her second solon exhibit, "Bodyscapes," at the Big & Small Art Gallery (4/F SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City) until Feb. 7. The exhibit of acrylic paintings marks her first major foray into canvas since her successful debut last year of large watercolors.

"Bodyscapes" glorifies and at the same time humors the female body in a manner that only a woman artist with Emma's sensitivity can achieve. A record of her traditional role as model, artist's wife and mother, Emma's paintings revel in the fullness and fertility of the female body, especially the nutrition-bearing breasts and sensuous buttocks, rendered in her trademark sharp but brilliant color combinations of red, green and blue. Call 826-8510.



TRES Roman's first solo exhibit titled "Square One" is running at Gallery Nine, 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati. Above is "Manuel's Playground." Call 899-2704.

DE LEON AT FIGARO. "Steps, Doors and Windows of the Old World," an exhibit of works by Pardo de Leon, will be on view at the new function rooms of Figaro (Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center) Jan. 30 to March 30. De Leon was one of the 13 artists awarded by the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1988. In December 1999, a grant from Italy enabled her to join a group show at the Italian-Swedish Cultural Foundation Gallery in Venice, Italy. As part of its European campaign, Figaro commissioned Pardo to do armories, which evoke the unique character of Europe. Call 631-3061 or log on to www.figarocoffee.com.

CALIP AT AVELLANA. Lexigius Calip's first solo exhibit, "Beyond Contemplation," is on view at the Avellana Art Gallery (220 Fresno Road, Pasay City) until Jan. 31. A graduate of the Technological University of the Philippines, Calip's works in mixed media and have won the Metrobank, Nokia, Shell, Philip Morris and Art Association of the Philippines competitions. Call 522-9793/94.

CANADIAN FILMS AT GREENBELT. Canada, a world-leader in digital filmmaking, features a full-length docudrama and five experimental short films by Norman Mclaren in "MOV: The Digital Moviefest," which runs until Jan. 30 at the Greenbelt Cinema 1, Makati City. The presentation is a collaboration between the Canadian embassy, Ayala Cinemas and the National Film Board of Canada.

"BOOBSCAPE," acrylic on canvas, by Emma Navarro, at Big & Small

EXHIBIT ON CLASSIC UST MAIN BUILDING. The University of Santo Tomas' Center for Intercultural Studies with its flagship faculties and colleges—the College of Architecture, the College of Fine Arts and Design and the Conservatory of Music—with the UST Archives and the UST Museum, will open "Foregrounding the Cultural Heritage of a Quadricentennial University: Forging the Future Through its Past," an exhibit on the history of the UST Main Building, at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 at the Paraninfo (Main Hall) of the UST Museum. Musical presentations consisting of significant musical compositions of the period that saw the rise of the building, acclaimed for

EMMA/p.F2

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